トーマの心臓 II

湖畔にて

エーリク 14と半分の年の夏

BY THE LAKE

The summer of Eric age fourteen and a half

萩尾望都

HAGIO MOTO

湖畔にて

エーリク　14と半分の年の夏

BY THE LAKE

The summer of Eric age fourteen and a half

This summer I decided to stay with Szyd in Boden.

I went straight there as soon as boarding school finished for the term.

It was going to be the first time we would talk and spend time on our own. Nevertheless, I felt he and I could live amicably together

Szyd said to me, "We'll get along just fine."

Juli Szyd Schwartz is my guardian. He's missing part of his left leg

Szyd owns a rundown hotel by Lake Boden, but he's left it in the care of his elder brother and his wife, a jolly fat couple

Szyd lives in a house he rents near the hotel. It's a ramshackled place surrounded by grass and flowers.

Szyd doesn't tell me when to sleep or wake up. He doesn't tell me to eat more or study harder either. He doesn't even tell me when to take a shower or get dressed.

All he does is read his book.

Like the flowers and grass around him, he doesn't seem troubled by anything.

His brother and wife bring us meals, and they're shocked that we leave the place in such a mess.

Sometimes I tell him, "You don't act much like a father, do you?"

Then Szyd belatedly realizes how long I've been watching him.

"Hey, come here," he says

Once it was time for coffee, so I washed a cup for myself.

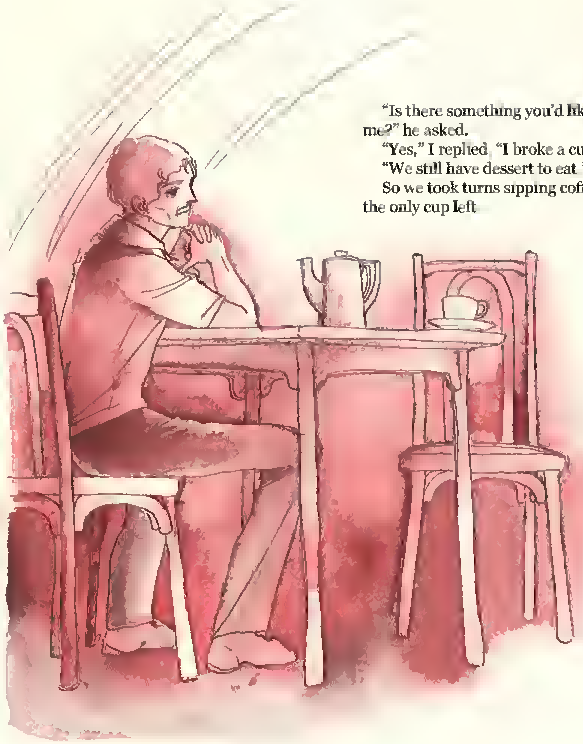
Szyd kept saying, "Hey, come here," so much that I accidentally dropped it on the floor.

"Is there something you'd like to tell me?" he asked.

"Yes," I replied. "I broke a cup."

"We still have dessert to eat," he said.

So we took turns sipping coffee from the only cup left.



He waved away the coffee steam.

As we settled into our new way of life, passing each other countless times, we had never mentioned the name of one person in particular in our conversations until now.

"You remind me of Marie so much," Szyd murmured.

Like some kind of magical spell, his words brought tears to my eyes.

Each day we'd go for meandering walks outdoors usually at a slow and easy pace.

But one evening, after a brilliant sunset in which our shadows stretched long into the distance, we saw lots of fireflies. The grass, the water, and the flowers all began to sparkle with tiny twinkling specks of light.

On that quiet enchanted night, we had a long talk about Marie.

When we did, Marie suddenly seemed like a living, breathing individual to me instead of a person who had passed away It was a wonderful feeling

Marie married Szyd this spring.

While traveling on their honeymoon, they had an accident and Marie died. Szyd's left leg had to be amputated. I was at school at the time.

Szyd lost his lower leg, and he told me he has lost a lot more too.

"But . . . well . . . I have gained something," he said, tugging my hair, "because you are here."

I wonder how Szyd knew that Marie also had the same habit of frequently tugging my hair.

Marie was my mother.

Szyd said Marie and I are alike in our fearless optimism. "She was like a winged fairy," Szyd would say from time to time.

Whenever she let out her girlish laugh, it never failed to lift my spirits.

I like Boden I like Szyd too
I can tumble on the tufts of grass,
and pretend I'm turning into a flower
Once I dozed off and had a dream.
It's given me a lot to think about

Marie and I were running together in the grass. We became tangled up. It was a funny sight.

Then the school appeared before me, followed by the faces of the people I knew there. I saw my teachers, my friends...

Julusmole Bayhan is a friend of mine.

He changed schools shortly before the summer break.

He's going to become a Catholic priest.

We often argued. I had a lot of fights with him. But I miss him most of all right now.

Juli has sent me a letter. I did write a reply, but it was too short for me to put any of my feelings into words.

So I told him how Johanna Spritz's desserts and pies keep changing every day, and that little songbirds fly over to eat the crumbs we leave behind.

We all call Julusmole by his nickname, 'Juli.'

Then there's my guardian, whose name is Juli Szyd.

I usually call him 'Szyd' now, but once in a while the name 'Juli' slips out. When that happens, I freeze in horror.

But Szyd turns to look at me, and then he laughs. He knows I'm bewildered by it.

I want to be an adult soon, because then I'll be able to laugh at all sorts of things too

I'm certain that when I do, my heart won't pound so painfully anymore.

Early one morning, someone came walking up the path through the mist. His long, slender figure seemed to appear and disappear amid the trees. I stood by the window of my room the whole time to watch him.

When I was wondering if I might be imagining him there, he took another step and my heart began pounding in excitement. Then he bounded easily over a fallen tree branch and laughed.

"Hello! How are you?" Oscar greeted me from below.

I smiled as I rested my chin in my hands on the window sill. His shining hair and face, the gleam of his watch and the buckles of shoes seemed to dazzle my eyes. I was so overjoyed to see him I was speechless.

"Come on! Come down from there!"

I wanted to leap out the window.

When Szyd came downstairs, Oscar was preparing breakfast for us.

Oscar said, "Good morning, Herr Schwartz. I hope I'm not imposing on you by dropping by."

He seemed uncomfortable with the title.

"Should I call you Eric's father?" Oscar suggested.

His eyes became round as saucers.

"Uncle?" Oscar said at last.

He took his place at the table.

"Szyd?" Oscar offered.

Szyd was miffed. "What?! Excuse me!"

"I thought you'd be at school," I told him.

He laughed. "But I always travel during the school holidays!" Then he added, "I went to the seminary in Bonn to see Juli."

"So he didn't go home for the holidays?"

"No, he didn't."

"How is Juli doing at school?"

"He's been getting good grades."

"What did you talk about?"

"This and that."

"What did he say?"

"This and that."

"He's well?"

"Yes, he's well."

"Now we're at a time in our lives when, like young saplings or blades of grass after rain, we grow and mature day by day. Each day, little by little, as we face the unknown, our leaves spread out, while our roots burrow deep. What we know now, and think now, and feel now, won't be the same as yesterday or tomorrow.

"Yesterday there were things that were important yesterday. Tomorrow there will be things that will again be important tomorrow.

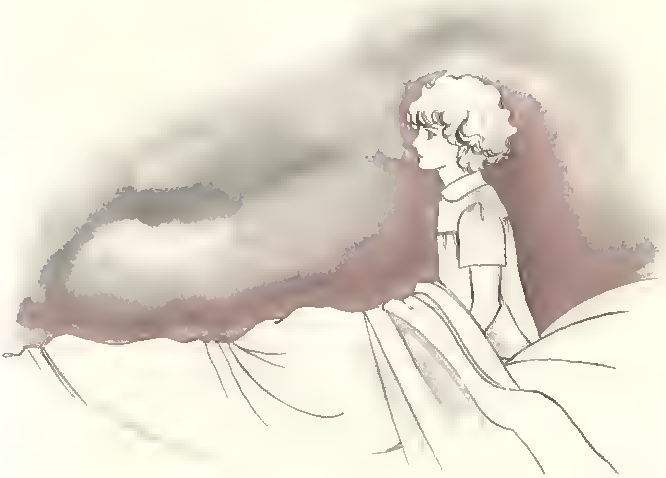
"That's why our time right now will always be the most important in our lives. Let's see now, and listen now, and then we shall grow and mature."

Those were Oscar's words to me. Oscar spent four days in Boden.

There's a poem I've been reciting within my mind
I've been thinking about it countless times.
I suppose it's been with me since yesterday.
I always love reciting it to myself.
Now why can't I keep it with me forever?

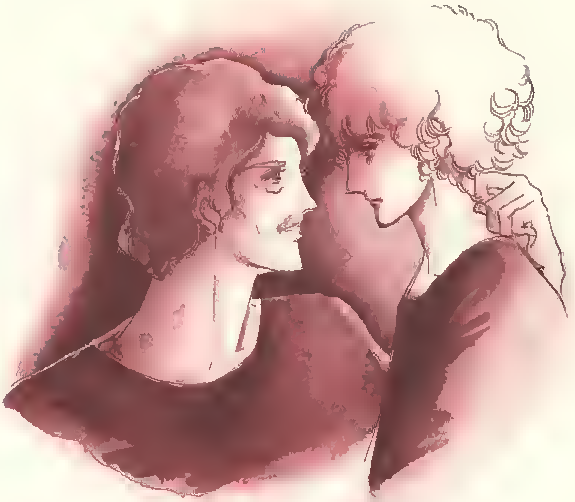
Why must I bid farewell to the people I come across?
Why must my heart mourn each time?
Why must the seasons pass?
Why must I lose everything?
Why must my loneliness gather around me like snow?

One night when
summer was almost over,
the sky was filled with
shooting stars.



What farflung place has this star shower come from?
Has everyone there experienced loss and loneliness too?
Is anyone there happy?

"The lost," Szyd said, "find their way back in their own time.' He repeated it over and over like the refrain of a poem, and then he tugged my hair. "That s why there's no need to be so sad."

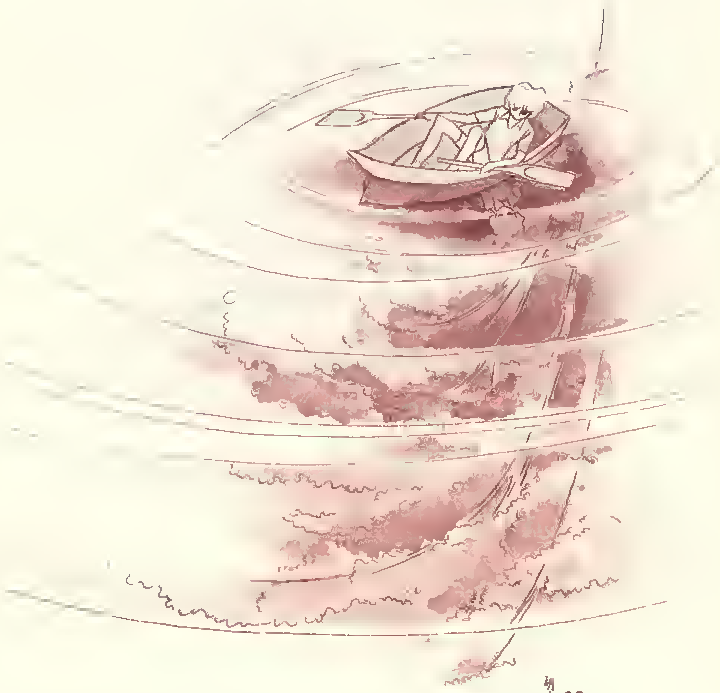


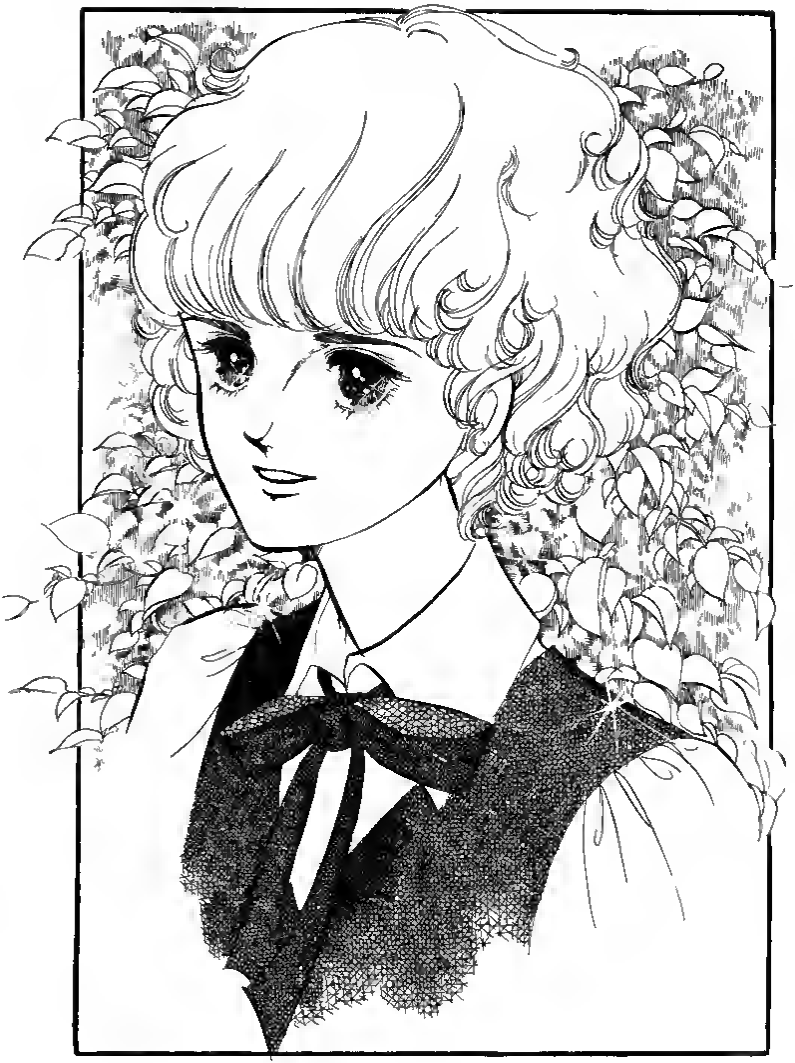
So what will tomorrow bring?

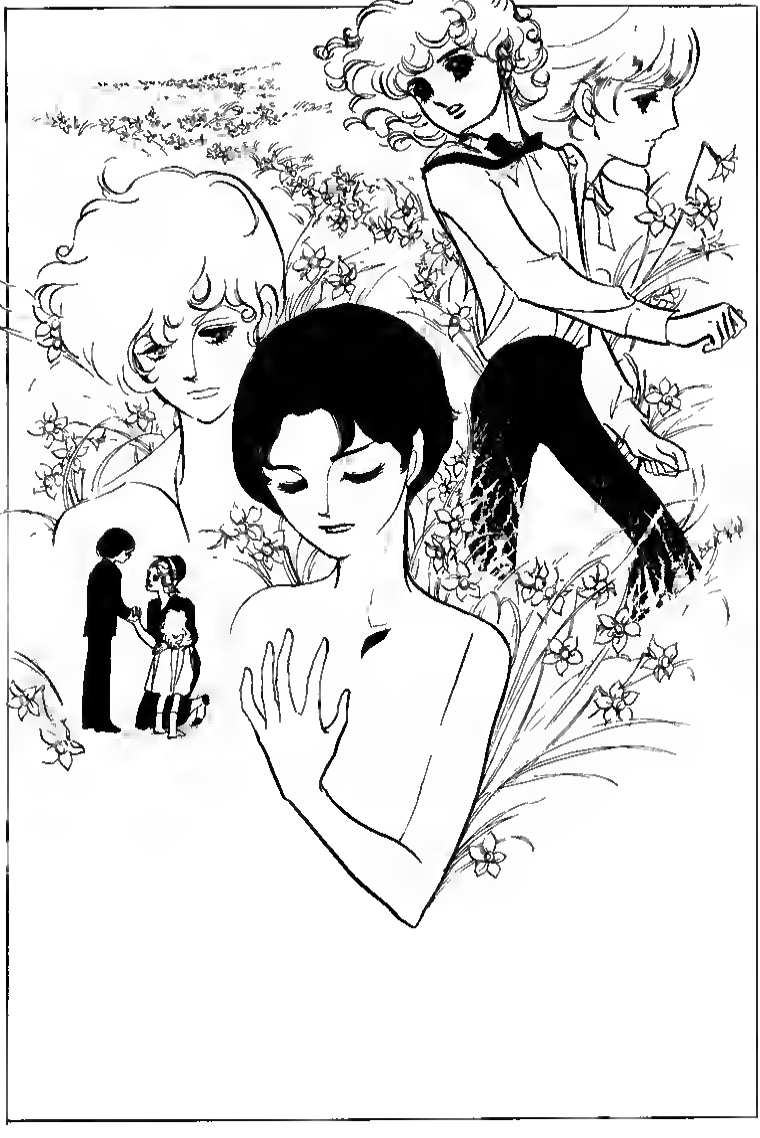
Will the lost fulfill their side of the bargain, if not tomorrow, then the day after, or even the day after that?

Will Szyd's words eventually come to pass? If so, will everything come back to me?

That was my refreshing summer in Boden







Character Names

Translation Notes

Translating foreign names from Japanese is never easy. Below are the names of some of the characters, along with some alternative spellings found online.

THOMAS - 'Thoma' is the more accurate transliteration of the katakana. However, in Japan both 'Thoma' AND 'Thomas' have been used in Western translations of the title. Since most English readers know the title as "The Heart of Thomas," it seemed easier to stick with 'Thomas' to avoid confusion.

JULI/JULUSMOLE - This is the actual spelling used by Hagio Moto (see Volume 1.) Should be pronounced as 'YOO-LI' in accordance with German rules of pronunciation.

OSCAR - 'Oskar' is the German spelling.

ERIC - 'Erich' is the German spelling, but is pronounced the same as in English.

Apologies to any German-literate readers who may be annoyed by the use of Anglicised spellings of some names.

トーマの心臓 1

萩尾望都

萩尾望都
Hagio, moto

トーマの心臓

萩尾望都

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HEART OF THOMAS

[illegible] a boy dies one morning His name is Thomas Werner He leaves behind a single letter addressed to his fellow student Juli "Here is my love Here is the sound of my heart"

With his faith shaken to the core by the words, the scholarly Juli sinks to the depths of despair His roommate Oscar watches on, his conflicted feelings for Juli and his own father kept tightly in check While these events unfold, new student Eric enters the school – a boy who closely resembles the deceased Thomas

Enter the world of a boy's boarding school in Germany where all will be revealed about the suffering and redemption that comes with love

Even today, this early work of Hagio Moto is still regarded as a brilliant masterpiece.

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トーマの心臓

萩尾望都

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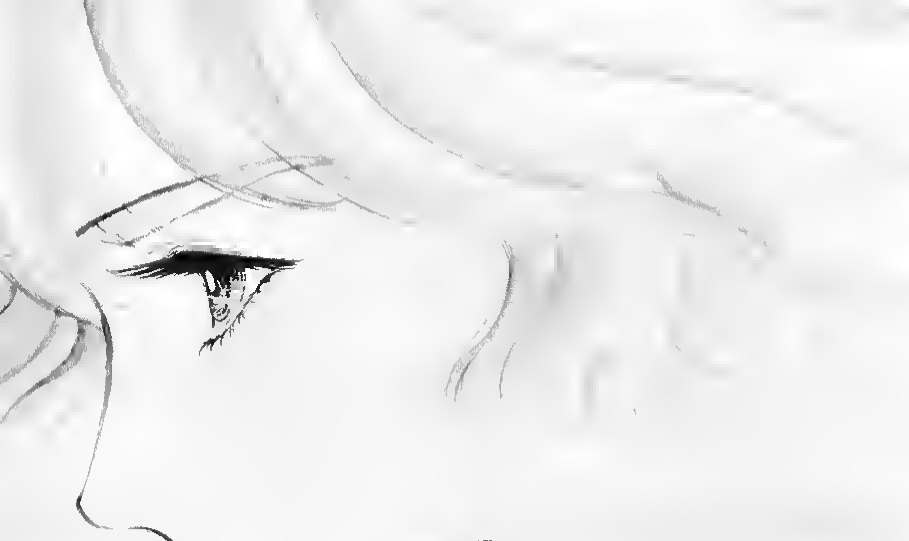
Essay - Oohara Mariko —— 457

THAT MORNING, THOMAS WERNER MAILED A LETTER AT THE POST OFFICE
SPRING WAS JUST AROUND THE CORNER
FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS, I'VE BEEN MULLING OVER...
...MY LIFE AND DEATH...
...AND HOW IT WILL AFFECT A FRIEND OF MINE.
THE MELTING SNOW SQUELCHED BENEATH HIS FOOTSTEPS

creak
JUMP
too!

JULI...JULIUSMOLE!



FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS, I'VE BEEN MUSING OVER MY LIFE AND DEATH...
AND HOW IT WILL AFFECT A FRIEND OF MINE.

I AM AWARE THAT I AM ONLY AN ADOLESCENT, AND I KNOW THAT MY YOUTHFUL LOVE WILL BE CAST ASIDE BY HIM IN THE FACE OF THE OBVIOUS -- ITS ASEXUAL, INEXPLICABLE NATURE.

SO THIS IS NOT A TRIVIAL BET I AM MAKING,
AND THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT I LOVE HIM.
SO SURELY HE MUST LOVE ME.

AT THE MOMENT, HE IS EFFECTIVELY DEAD TO THE WORLD,
SO I THINK NOTHING OF MUTILATING MY OWN BODY
IN ORDER TO BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE.

IT IS SAID THAT WE ALL DIE TWICE:
FIRSTLY, THE PHYSICAL DEATH;
LATER, THE DEATH OF BEING FORGOTTEN BY OUR FRIENDS.

IN THAT CASE,
I WILL NEVER DIE THAT SECOND DEATH
FOR EVEN WHEN HE DIES, HE SHALL NEVER FORGET ME.

IN THIS WAY,
I SHALL ALWAYS LIVE ON
IN HIS EYES.

THOMA NO SHINZOU
THE HEART OF THOMAS
トーマの心臓

IT'S JULI!
clang
squelch
squelch
JULI!
JULI!
JULI!
GOOD MORN-ING!
DON'T CRY!
THERE, THERE. DON'T CRY, ANTE.
IT'S TERRIBLE! DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS? THOMAS IS DEAD!
THERE'S NOTHING GOOD ABOUT IT!
DEAD?
WOOSH
THOMAS WERNER, THE STUDENT IN THE YEAR BELOW US! OUR CUTE YOUNG FRAULEIN!

A TEACHER SAID HE'D BEEN WALKING IN THE SNOW!
IT WAS THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY! ON SATURDAY—
MORNING!
BUT HOW—?
THE WALKWAY BRIDGE! HE FELL FROM THE WALKWAY BRIDGE!
WELL, IT WAS A HUGE SHOCK TO ALL OF US!
THEY THINK IT HAPPENED AROUND THE START OF THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.
SO IS EVERYONE ELSE ALL RIGHT?
UH-HUH. THE REST OF US ARE BACK AT SCHOOL.
BUT—
THOMAS WERNER REALLY DID LIKE YOU, JULI.
I THOUGHT YOU ALL KNEW THAT I PUT AN END TO THAT PRANK OF HIS!

LEAVE IT, ANTE
BUT THOMAS!
BRINGING THAT UP WITH JULI WILL ONLY CAUSE TROUBLE
YES, IT IS.
IS MASS ON AT THE USUAL TIME?
SO IT'LL BE A MEMORIAL SERVICE I'LL SEE YOU THERE LATER
BUT ...
A PRANK? B-BUT...
WHY IS ANTE BAWLING SO MUCH? HE'S A LOT MORE UPSET THAN THE REST OF US
ANTE AND THOMAS WERE RIVALS, WEREN'T THEY?
NO NEED TO ACT CHEERFUL. WHEN DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS?
ABOUT THOMAS? EVERYONE'S IN AN UPROAR OVER IT
Slam!
JULI!
HEY, OSCAR!
HMM. ON MY DESK
...IS A LITTLE SOMETHING THAT ARRIVED FOR YOU

POOR LITTLE THOMAS WERNER!
GONE BEFORE HIS TIME!
clack
SEE THE POST-MARK ON IT?
SHUT THE WINDOW.
IT'S COLD!
A LETTER FOR ME?
IT CAME YESTER-DAY
I WAS HERE AT SCHOOL
HMPH.
NO...
DO YOU KNOW THE TOWN WHERE THOMAS LIVED?
IT WAS MAILED ON SATURDAY MORNING - THE DAY YOUR DEAR SUITOR MET HIS TRAGIC FATE

SURELY HE MUST'VE WANTED YOU TO WRITE A REPLY TO HIM
AHH, THE PERKS OF BEING DEAD!
YOUR SUITOR WASN'T THINKING STRAIGHT WHEN HE CHOSE TO ENTER THE PEARLY GATES THE OTHER DAY, WAS HE?
AFTER ALL THESE ARE THOMAS'S FINAL THOUGHTS IN HIS FINAL WORDS.
HE'S NO LONGER HERE
SO I HAVE A DUTY TO READ IT
YOU'RE NOT TEARING IT UP AS USUAL?
SO YOU'LL READ IT?
HE'S NOT HERE ANYMORE
OPHELIA
THOMAS WERNER THE STUDENT IN THE YEAR BELOW US! OUR CUTE YOUNG FRAULEIN!
THOMAS WERNER'S LAST WORDS
FINALLY, TO JULUSMOLE...
Finally, to Julusmole,
Here is my love
Here is the sound of
my heart
Surely you will understand.
THAT BOY
From the walk way bridge
HE'S DEAD!
JULI!
HE FELL!
JULI
HE'S DEAD!

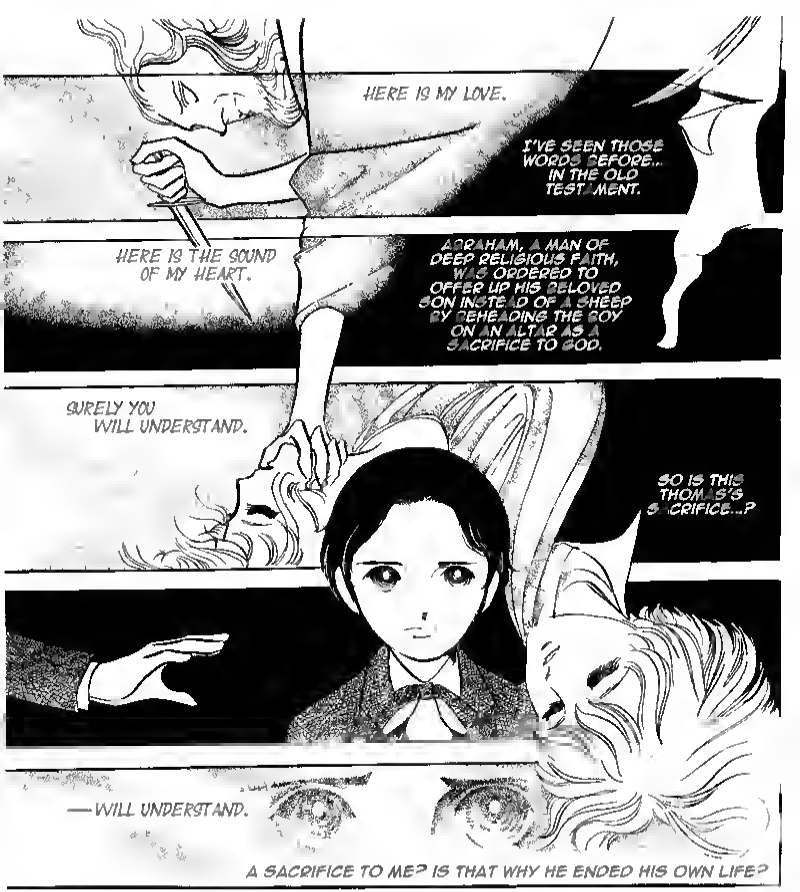
IS THAT WHAT HE WROTE IN HIS LOVE LETTER?
HUH? WHAT'S WITH THAT TONE OF VOICE, JULI?
DO YOU THINK THAT'S HOW THOMAS WERNER DIED?
RIGHT I SEE
WHAT'S WRONG, JULI?
.....
HOW DO YOU THINK HE DIED?!
IN AN ACCI-DENT!
grab
HIS WILL!
...TO YOU!
SO HE'S ADDRESSED HIS WILL....

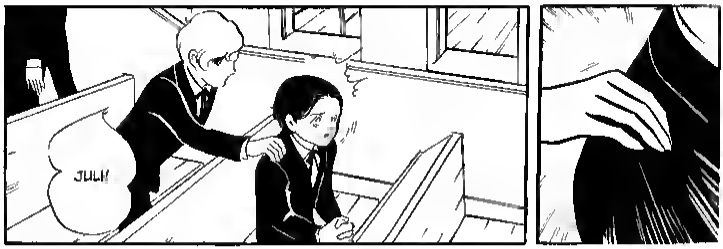
RIGHT WE'RE COMING!
TIME FOR MASS!
knock knock
WHAT IS HE TRYING TO PULL?
JULI!
stomp stomp
HE'S ADDRESSED HIS WILL TO YOU!
HEY, GOOD MORNING!
Wah!
GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING!

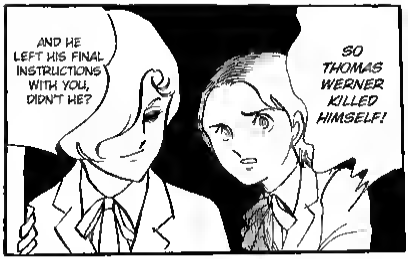
AND HE WAS SUCH A NICE AND FRIENDLY PERSON.
IT'S SUCH A SHAME, HUH?
REALLY!
I HEARD ABOUT THOMAS'S ACCIDENT!
UH-HUH! NOW EVEN ALL THE OLDER STUDENTS KNOW ABOUT IT!
LEAPITY LEAP!
OUR SWEET FRAULEIN DESERVED BETTER, DIDN'T HE?
I KNOW THAT WALKWAY BRIDGE. IT'S A BIG DROP!
LIES!
TRAGEDY HAS BEFALLEN SOMEONE IN SCHLOTTERBETZ GYMNASIUM SINCE THE SCHOOL'S INCEPTION.
IT'S BECAUSE THIS PLACE IS UNLUCKY
YES— LOTS
I GUESS IT MUST'VE BEEN SNOWING AT THE TIME
STOP IT!
WHY ARE YOU MOVING SO CLOSE TO ME?
JULI!

GYMNASIUM an academically-oriented German secondary school that prepares students for advanced university study In this story the school is split into two divisions Intermediate (four grades) and Senior (five grades)

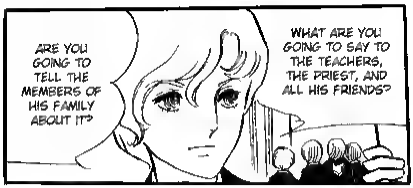
SHH!
SEE?
SHH!
I MUST INFORM YOU ALL OF A MOST TRAGIC EVENT
LAST SATURDAY A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO
THOMAS WERNER, GED THIRTEEN, A FOURTH-YEAR INTERMEDIATE STUDENT, PASSED AWAY...
FOR HE WAS A FINE PUPIL
AND MOST OF ALL...
AND A HUGE SHOCK FOR US TO DEAL WITH...
TRULY, IT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT...
ON THE WALKWAY BRIDGE NEAR ROEHM STATION
IT'S BELIEVED HE SLIPPED AND FELL THROUGH A BREAK IN THE WIRE FENCE...
FINALLY, TO JULYSMOLE...


HERE IS MY LOVE.
I'VE SEEN THOSE WORDS BEFORE... IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.
HERE IS THE SOUND OF MY HEART.
ABRAHAM, A MAN OF DEEP RELIGIOUS FAITH, WAS ORDERED TO OFFER UP HIS BELOVED SON INSTEAD OF A SHEEP BY BEHEADING THE BOY ON AN ALTAR AS A SACRIFICE TO GOD.
SURELY YOU WILL UNDERSTAND.
SO IS THIS THOMAS'S SACRIFICE...?
—WILL UNDERSTAND.
A SACRIFICE TO ME? IS THAT WHY HE ENDED HIS OWN LIFE?

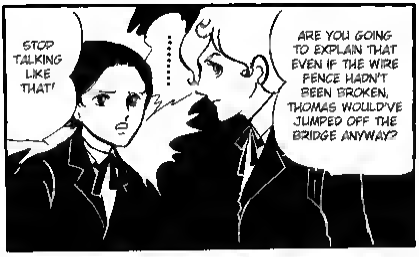

JULIA!


AND HE LEFT HIS FINAL INSTRUCTIONS WITH YOU, DIDN'T HE?
SO THOMAS WERNER KILLED HIMSELF!

ガタン!
clatter


ARE YOU GOING TO TELL THE MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY ABOUT IT?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SAY TO THE TEACHERS, THE PRIEST, AND ALL HIS FRIENDS?

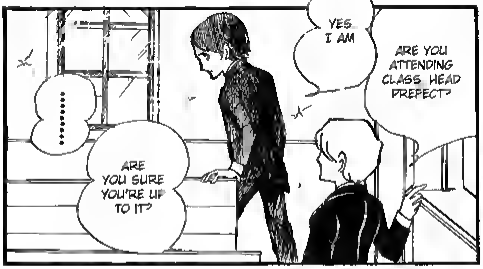
BECAUSE HE COULDN'T HANDLE THE BURGEONING LOVE HE FELT FOR YOU AND YOUR EXOTIC DARK HAIR
THOMAS COMMITTED SUICIDE


STOP TALKING LIKE THAT!
ARE YOU GOING TO EXPLAIN THAT EVEN IF THE WIRE FENCE HADN'T BEEN BROKEN, THOMAS WOULD'VE JUMPED OFF THE BRIDGE ANYWAY?

EVEN A LITTLE?
DID YOU LIKE THOMAS AT ALL?
NO!

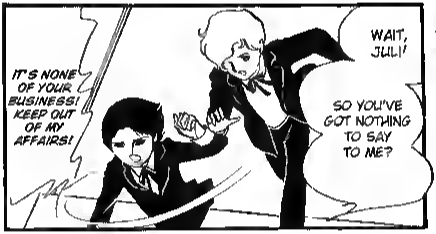
SWIPE

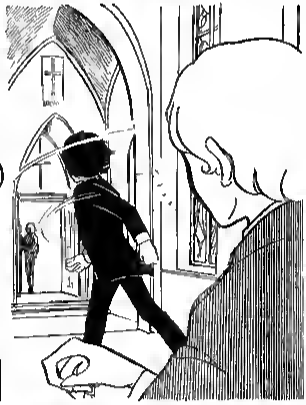
CALM DOWN
Grab
Ow!


YES, I AM
ARE YOU ATTENDING CLASS HEAD PREFECT?
.....
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE UP TO IT?

NO...

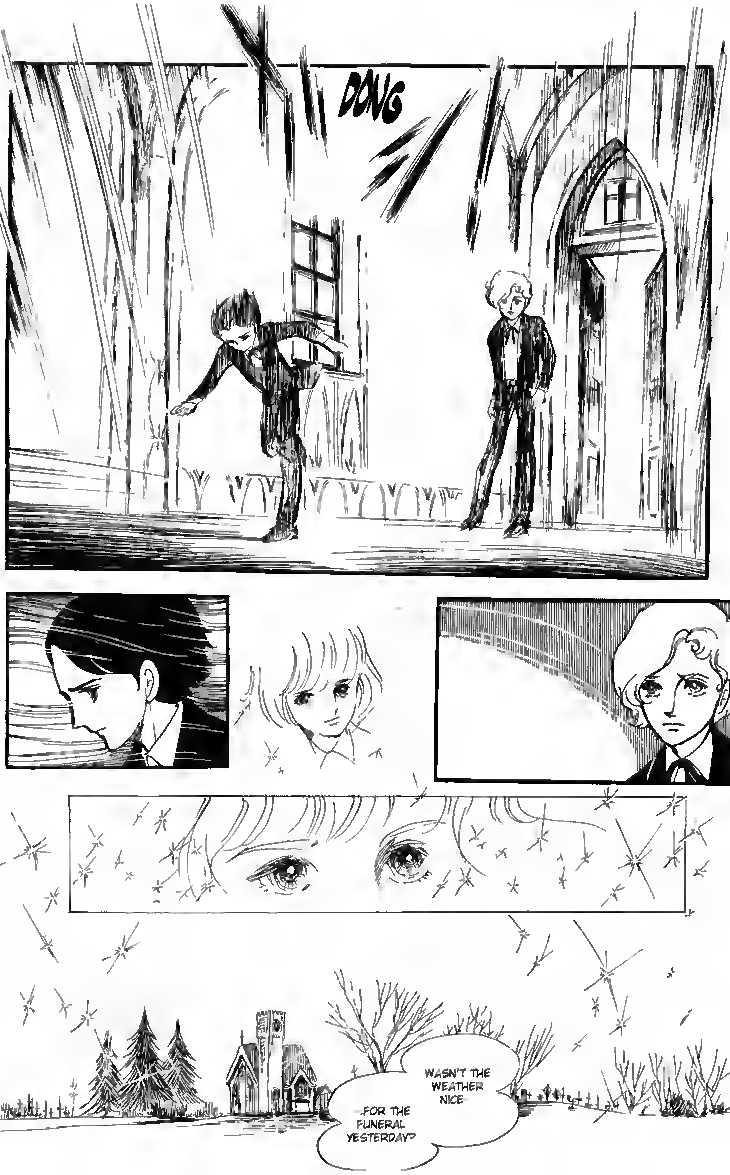
DON'T DO THAT!
YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY COME BACK HERE


IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! KEEP OUT OF MY AFFAIRS!
WAIT, JULI!
SO YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO SAY TO ME?



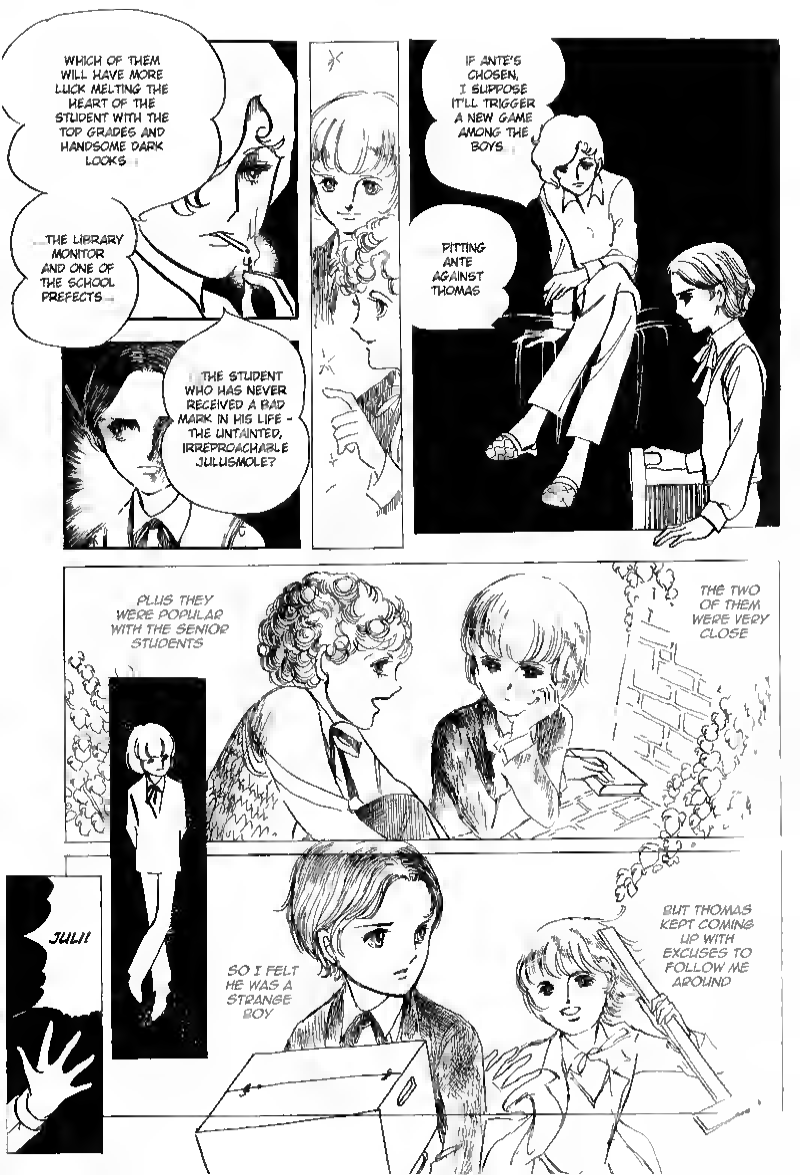
.....

THAT THOMAS WERNER THREW HIS OWN LIFE AWAY?!
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT MADE HIM DO IT! SO WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO TELL EVERYONE?


DONG
WASN'T THE WEATHER NICE
...FOR THE FUNERAL YESTERDAY?

UH-HUH, IT WAS A FINE SUNNY DAY. SUCH DAYS HAVE BEEN RARE LATELY
THE FLORAL TRIBUTES ALONE WERE SO PRETTY.
HIS OLDER BROTHERS WERE THERE.
BOTH OF THEM WERE GRADUATES OF SCHLOTTER-BETZ.
THOMAS'S MOTHER HAS AN UNCANNY RESEMBLANCE TO THOMAS DOESN'T SHE?
HER VOICE WAS SIMILAR TO HIS, TOO.
SOFT AND GENTLE
I FELT SO SORRY FOR HER. SHE WAS SOBBING THE WHOLE TIME.
WHAT FOR? HE'S IN A DIFFERENT YEAR. HE'S NOT A MEMBER OF OUR CLASS.
HEY, JULIUSMOLE! WHY DIDN'T YOU ATTEND THE FUNERAL?
YES, BUT YOU'RE IN THE SAME SCHOOL AS HIM. PLUS YOU'RE HEAD PREFECT OF OUR CLASS!
BESIDES, YOU KNEW THOMAS PERSONALLY, DIDN'T YOU?

I'M SORRY TO SAY IT, BUT I STILL CAN'T STAND HIM NOW.
I COULDN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF HIM!
clatter
EACH SATURDAY THOMAS WAS INVITED TO THEIR TEA PARTY AT JAKOB HALL!
WHO DO YOU THINK THE OLDER STUDENTS WILL PICK THIS WEEK?
Whirrr
HEY, WHAT ABOUT JULI? I WONDER IF A PRANK LIKE THAT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN?
WELL
HIM? THAT CHEEKY BRAT?!
HOW ABOUT ANTE?
OBVIOUSLY THOMAS IS DEAD AT LEAST WITH ANTE, THEY'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE TO GET LUCKY!
BUT IF THOMAS DECLARED HE LIKED ME, I'D BE OVER THE MOON ABOUT IT EVEN IF IT WAS A SILLY LIE
ANYWAY, HE'S DEAD NOW. IT'S TIME TO FORGIVE AND FORGET
IS IT ANYTHING LIKE THE MARCH HARE'S TEA PARTY FROM ALICE IN WONDERLAND?
I DISLIKE JAKOB HALL. MUST THEY HOLD IT THERE?
HMMPH

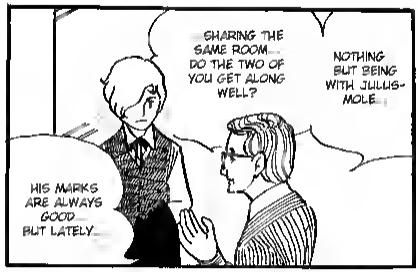

WHICH OF THEM WILL HAVE MORE LUCK MELTING THE HEART OF THE STUDENT WITH THE TOP GRADES AND HANDSOME DARK LOOKS
THE LIBRARY MONITOR AND ONE OF THE SCHOOL PREFECTS
THE STUDENT WHO HAS NEVER RECEIVED A BAD MARK IN HIS LIFE - THE UNTAINTED, IRREPROACHABLE JULIUSMOLE?
IF ANTE'S CHOSEN, I SUPPOSE IT'LL TRIGGER A NEW GAME AMONG THE BOYS
PITTING ANTE AGAINST THOMAS
PLUS THEY WERE POPULAR WITH THE SENIOR STUDENTS
THE TWO OF THEM WERE VERY CLOSE
JULI!
SO I FELT HE WAS A STRANGE BOY
BUT THOMAS KEPT COMING UP WITH EXCUSES TO FOLLOW ME AROUND

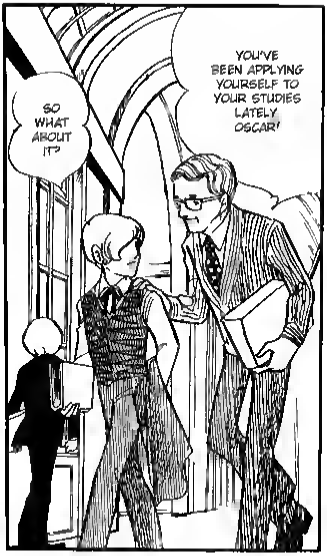
NOTE The lines on the blackboard are from the poem *Heidenröslein* by J. W. von Goethe. An English translation by Walter Mayer reads: "Then the headstrong lad did break Rosebud on the meadow." The poem is about a boy who picks a wild rose although it is also believed to be about the fragility of love and beauty as symbolized by the rose. Some also believe that *Röslein* symbolizes a beautiful country lass who is left broken (emotionally heartbroken or physically raped) by the boy.

ALL THE STUDENTS IN THIS SCHOOL ARE WAITING TO SEE IF THOMAS WINS THE BET/ THEY WANT TO SEE WHETHER YOU'LL FALL FOR HIM!
BUT MAYBE YOU KNOW ABOUT IT ALREADY!
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE BET THOMAS MADE WITH ANTE?
Und der wilde Knabe brach
's Röslein auf der Heiden
Röslein
TO BEGIN WITH, THAT OCCURRED MORE THAN SIX MONTHS AGO. THAT CAN'T BE THE REASON BEHIND HIS SUICIDE!
BUT...
THERE WAS NOTHING TO REJECT, FOR THERE WAS NOTHING BETWEEN US! ALL I DID WAS STAMP OUT HIS STUPID PRANK!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE FINAL SCENE BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU, BUT I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM THE OTHER BOYS. YOU CRUELLY REJECTED THOMAS IN FULL VIEW OF EVERYONE

YOU CAN IMAGINE THEIR CONTENTS, RIGHT?
YOU OUGHT TO THROW THEM OUT WITHOUT READING THEM JULIUSMOLE
HE REALLY HAS PULLED A PRANK THIS TIME - ON YOU AND ANTE AND EVERY ONE OF US.
THOMAS MUST SERIOUSLY ...BELIEVE THAT YOU LIKED HIM IN RETURN
WHAT'S HE UP TO? DOES HE THINK HE'LL MAKE YOU LOVE HIM SO BADLY THAT YOU'LL DIE FOR HIM TOO? YOU'RE NOT SUCH A PUSHOVER.
NEXT HE'LL BE SENDING YOU GOODNESS KNOWS HOW MANY LETTERS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE.
JULIUS-MOLE, HERE IS MY LOVE!
JULIUS-MOLE!
HERE IS [redacted] OF MY HEART!
SURELY YOU WILL UNDER-STAND!
...BUT I DON'T UNDER-STAND!
WELL... WHAT NOW? SHOULDN'T WE DO OUR BIT TO GRIEVE FOR HIM?
...AND THEN WE'LL FORGET HE EVER EXISTED.
LET'S SHED A FEW TEARS IN HIS MEMORY...

AS A MATTER OF FACT, HEREIN LIES THE ORIGINS OF OUR NATION
VERY GOOD JULLISMOLE
FRANKEN AND THUERINGEN FORMED THE DUCHY OF EAST FRANKEN
THE TRIBES OF SAXON, SCHWABEN, BAYERN, FRIESLAND
SO WHO CAN TELL ME THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME 'DEUTSCH'? NOW THEN... SOMEONE ELSE?
X=2x(y+z)+z
Y=2z(x+·····
scritch scritch
Pant
STOP TRYING SO HARD TO BOTTLE THINGS UP


SHARING THE SAME ROOM... DO THE TWO OF YOU GET ALONG WELL?
NOTHING BUT BEING WITH JILLIS-MOLE...
HIS MARKS ARE ALWAYS GOOD... BUT LATELY...

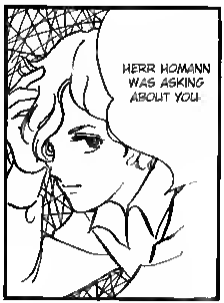

YOU'VE BEEN APPLYING YOURSELF TO YOUR STUDIES LATELY, OSCAR!
SO WHAT ABOUT IT?

WELL IT'S NOT THAT SERIOUS...

SO HOW HAS HE BEEN DOING LATELY?
HUH?

NEVER MIND EXCUSE ME FOR INTERRUPTING YOU.
PHYSICALLY THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HIM.
MAYBE I'M MISTAKEN

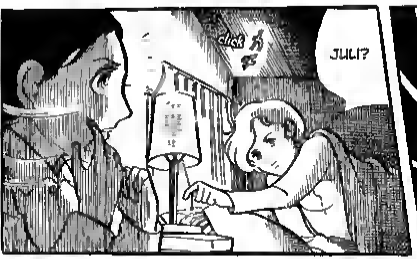
HE'S YOUR MATH TEACHER, ISN'T HE?
HE SEEMS A NICE FELLOW...
YES, HE'S BEEN ASKING ABOUT MY HEALTH BUT THE MEDICAL REPORT WAS FINE


HERR HOMANN WAS ASKING ABOUT YOU.

BUT LIFE'S TOO SHORT
shh
SUCH VICES DON'T APPEAL TO ME
CIGA-RETTE?
THAT'S RIGHT
DID I SAY SOMETHING TO ANNOY HIM? I SWEAR HE WAS GIVING OFF BRIGHT SPARKS!
Flick
TEN!
.....
crackle
THEN YOU CAN SHOUT IT TO THE ROOFTOPS AND SETTLE THIS MATTER ONCE AND FOR ALL
HURRY UP AND WORK OUT AN ANSWER TO THAT LETTER JULI

Ah!

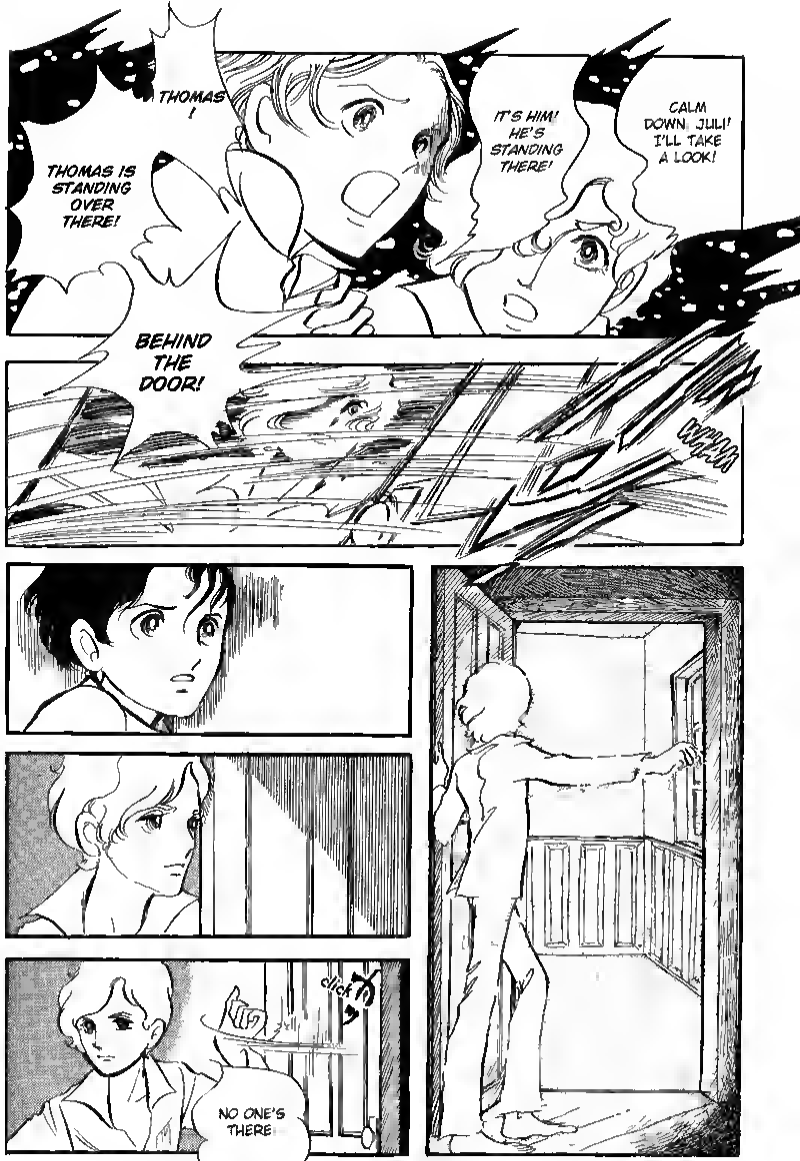
THOMAS!

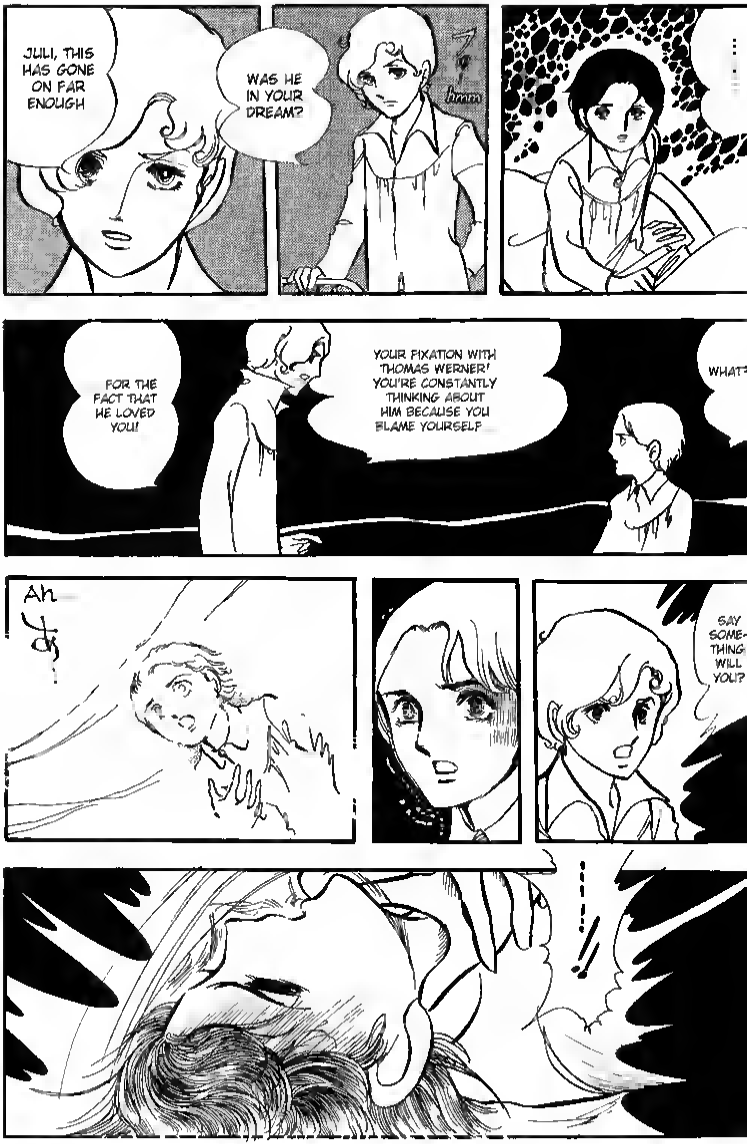

JULI?

AH
AH!

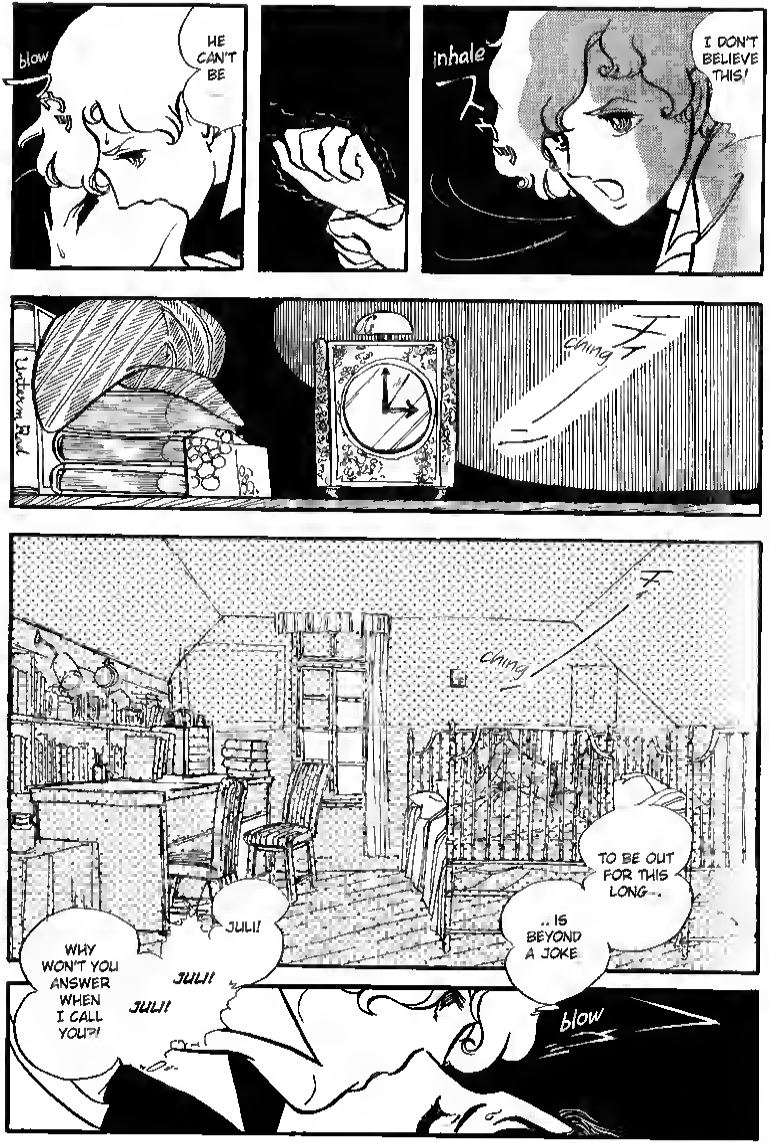
HUH?
IT WAS NOTHING JUST A DREAM.

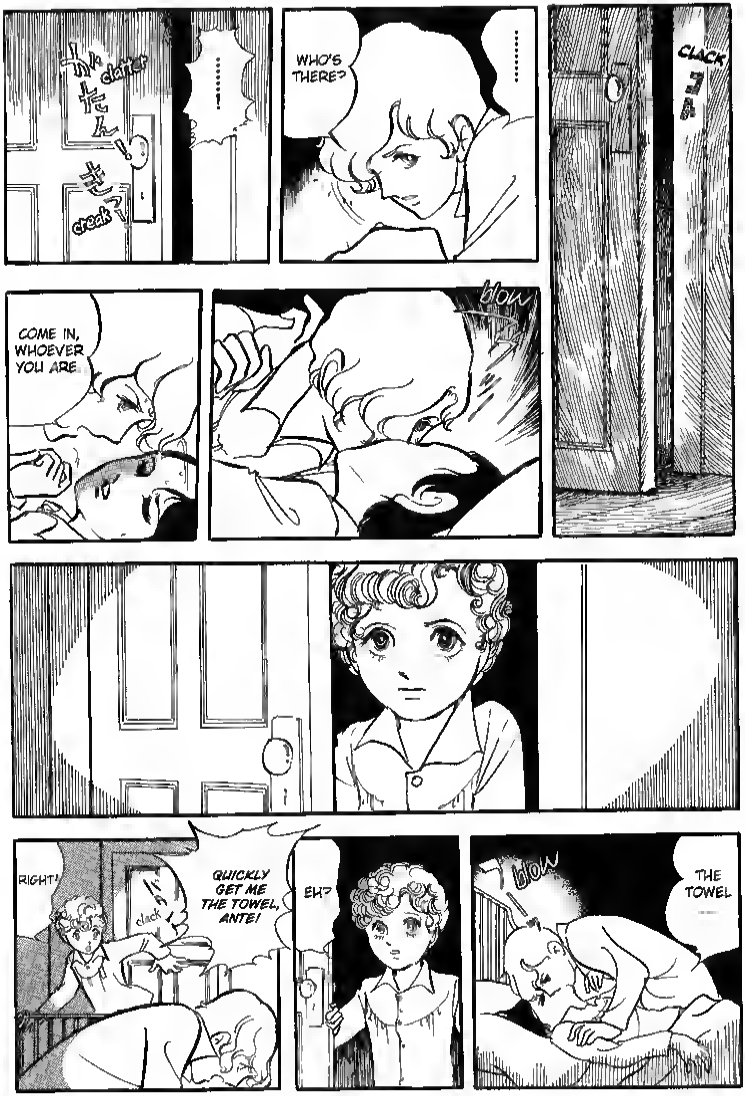
IT'S THE WIND
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
YOUR FACE IS AS WHITE AS A SHEET.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN ONE SCARY DREAM
HOW ABOUT WE GO BACK TO SLEEP?
THE DEVIL'S HOUR - THE TIME THAT MOST DEATHS OCCUR.
NEARLY THREE O'CLOCK
WHAT'S THE TIME?
.....
I'LL TURN THE LIGHT OFF
HE'S STANDING THERE!
!
JULI?
WHO'S THERE?
OVER THERE OUTSIDE THE DOOR! I HEARD A SOUND—
HE'S THERE!
YOU'RE BEING SILLY. WHO'S GOING TO COME AT THIS HOUR?


THOMAS!
THOMAS IS STANDING OVER THERE!
IT'S HIM! HE'S STANDING THERE!
CALM DOWN, JULI! I'LL TAKE A LOOK!
BEHIND THE DOOR!
click
NO ONE'S THERE

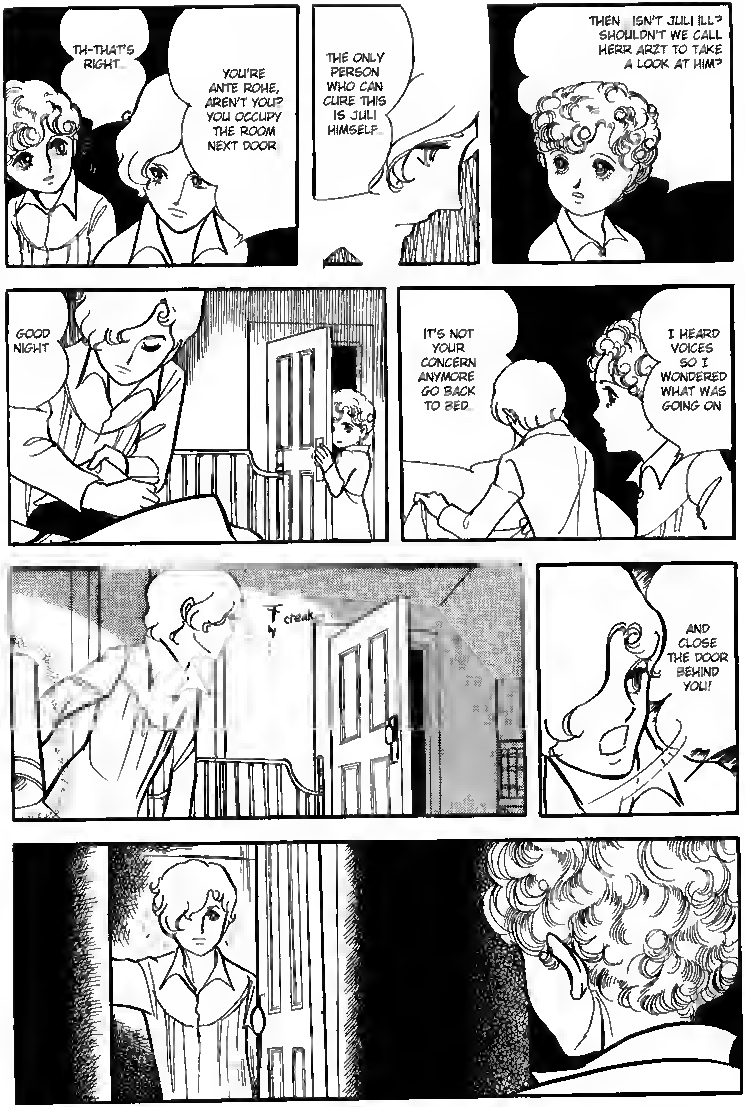

JULI, THIS HAS GONE ON FAR ENOUGH
WAS HE IN YOUR DREAM?
hmm
FOR THE FACT THAT HE LOVED YOU!
YOUR FIXATION WITH THOMAS WERNER! YOU'RE CONSTANTLY THINKING ABOUT HIM BECAUSE YOU BLAME YOURSELF
WHAT?
Ah
SAY SOMETHING WILL YOU!?

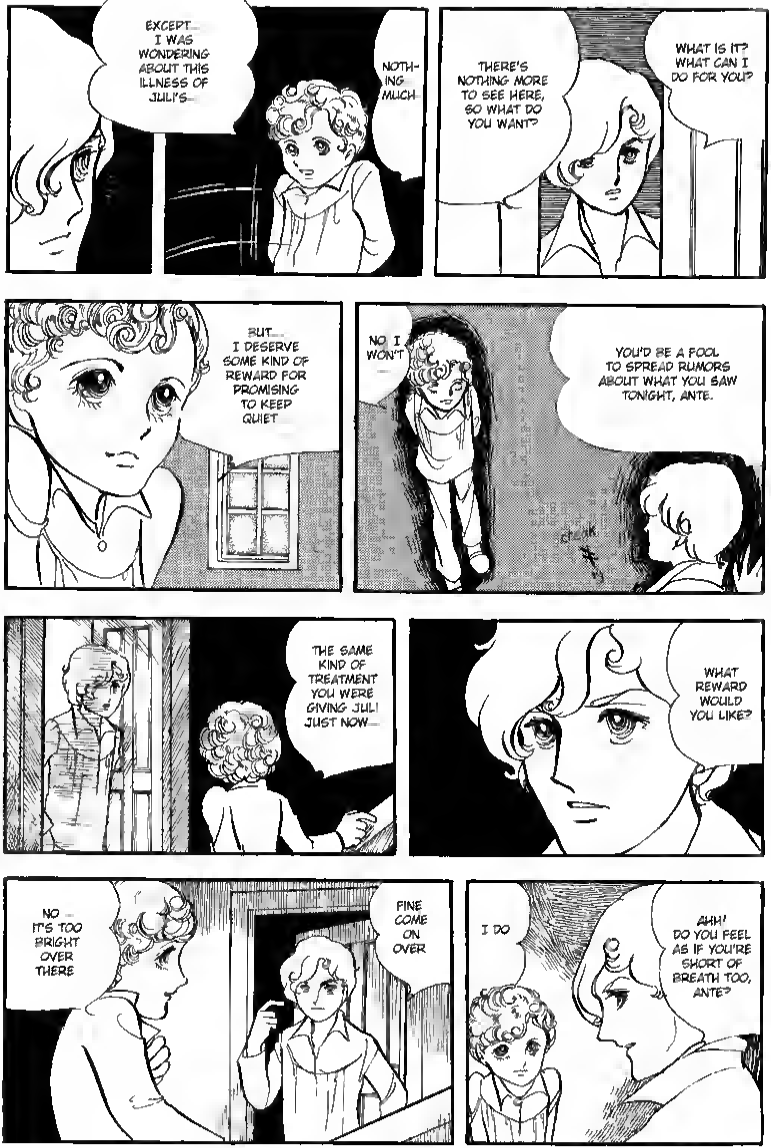
WHAT'S WRONG, JULI? JULI!
IT HURTS! CAN'T BREATHE...
MY CHEST FEELS HEAVY!
GET YOUR HAND OFF ME!
CAN'T...
AH... AH AH! AHH!
JULI!
HEY!
THOMAS! TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME...
NO... DON'T!
YOUR HANDS ARE COLD...
shudder
blow
AHH...


blow
HE CAN'T BE
inhale
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
Uniform Bed
craving
craving
TO BE OUT FOR THIS LONG...
..IS BEYOND A JOKE
JULI!
JULI!
JULI!
WHY WON'T YOU ANSWER WHEN I CALL YOU?!
blow


creak
WHO'S THERE?
CLACK
COME IN, WHOEVER YOU ARE.
blow
RIGHT!
clack
QUICKLY GET ME THE TOWEL, ANTE!
EH?
blow
THE TOWEL

thwack
SQUEEZE IT DRY FIRST, YOU FOOL!
TOSS IT TO ME!
TH-THIS ONE?
huff...
blow!
Ah... ah...
.....
NOTHING... JUST A SEIZURE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH JULI?


TH-THAT'S RIGHT...
YOU'RE ANTE ROHE, AREN'T YOU? YOU OCCUPY THE ROOM NEXT DOOR
THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN CURE THIS IS JULI HIMSELF
THEN ISN'T JULI ILL? SHOULDN'T WE CALL HERR ARZT TO TAKE A LOOK AT HIM?
GOOD NIGHT
IT'S NOT YOUR CONCERN ANYMORE GO BACK TO BED
I HEARD VOICES SO I WONDERED WHAT WAS GOING ON
creak
AND CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU!


EXCEPT... I WAS WONDERING ABOUT THIS ILLNESS OF JULI'S...
NOTHING MUCH
THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO SEE HERE, SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHAT IS IT? WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
BUT... I DESERVE SOME KIND OF REWARD FOR PROMISING TO KEEP QUIET
NO, I WON'T
YOU'D BE A FOOL TO SPREAD RUMORS ABOUT WHAT YOU SAW TONIGHT, ANTE.
THE SAME KIND OF TREATMENT YOU WERE GIVING JULI JUST NOW...
WHAT REWARD WOULD YOU LIKE?
NO — IT'S TOO BRIGHT OVER THERE
FINE COME ON OVER
I DO
AHH! DO YOU FEEL AS IF YOU'RE SHORT OF BREATH TOO, ANTE?

AH...
grab
shove
THERE! ALL FINISHED! NOW GO!
.....
slam
.....

...FOR GIVING YOU SUCH A HARD TIME...
I'M SORRY AS WELL...
squish squish
THAT WAS MY FAULT...
THANK YOU
AHH...
YOU AWAKE NOW?
IS IT ALCOHOL?
STOP FUSSING AND DRINK IT...
WHAT'S THAT?
DON'T THINK ABOUT THOMAS ANYMORE!
...ONCE AND FOR ALL!
DON'T THINK ABOUT HIM!
THEN OVER TIME YOU'VE GOT TO PUT AN END TO THIS...
IT'S COGNAC DILUTED WITH WATER. IT'S TO HELP YOU SLEEP WITHOUT HAVING MORE NIGHTMARES

Heidenröslein

Sah ein Knab' ein Röslein stehn,
Röslein auf der Heiden,
War so jung und morgenschön,
Lief er schnell es nah zu sehn,
Sah's mit vielen Freuden
Röslein, Röslein, Röslein rot,
Röslein auf der Heiden.

Knabe sprach: "Ich breche dich,
Röslein auf der Heiden."
Röslein sprach: "Ich steche dich,
Daß du ewig denkst an mich,
Und ich will's nicht leiden."
Röslein, Röslein, Röslein rot,
Röslein auf der Heiden.

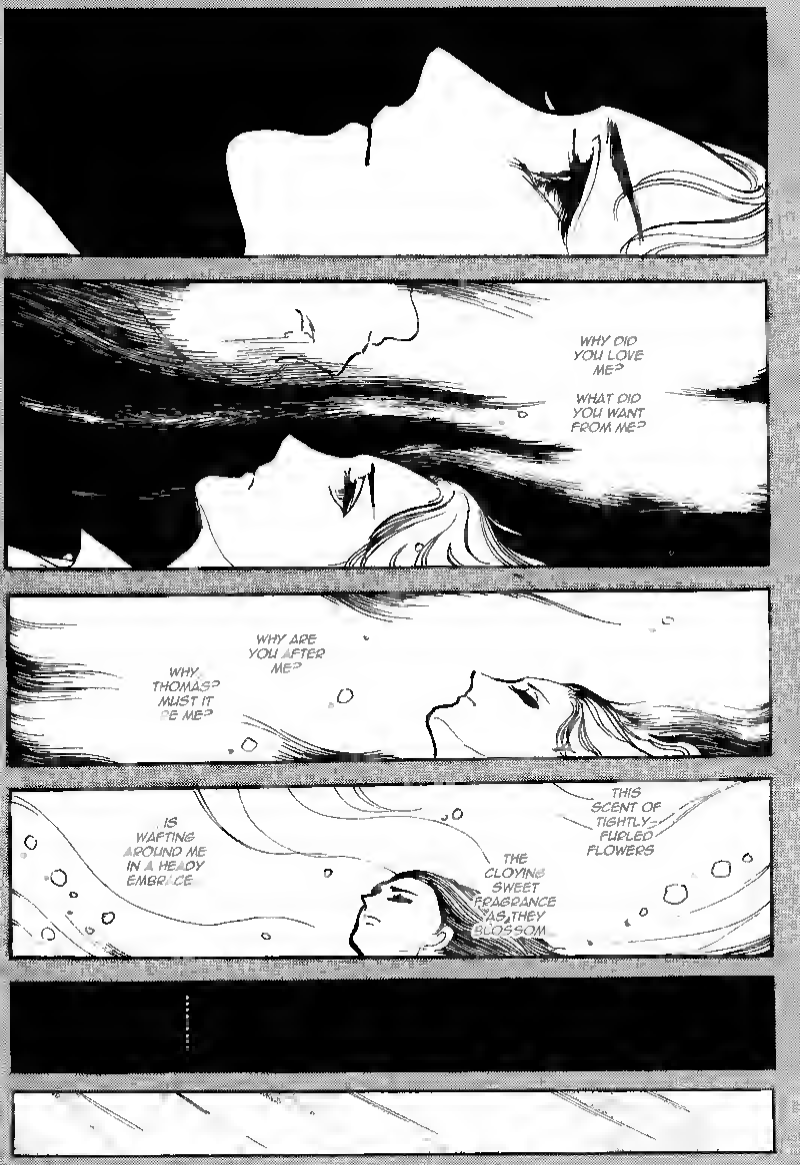
Und der wilde Knabe brach
's Röslein auf der Heiden,
Röslein wehrte sich und stach,
Half ihm doch kein Weh und Ach,
Mußt' es eben leiden.
Röslein, Röslein, Röslein rot,
Röslein auf der Heiden.

Passing lad a wild rose spied,
Rosebud on the meadow,
'Twas so fair with youthful pride
Rushed he then to be by her side,
Gazed with joy o'erflowing.
Rosebud, rosebud, rosebud red,
Wild rose on the meadow.

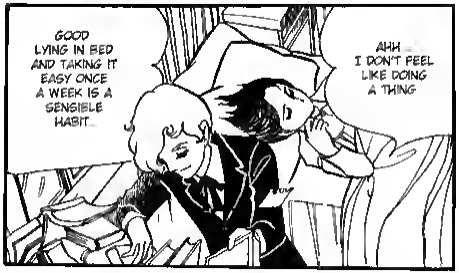
Lad said: I'll be breaking thee,
Rosebud on the meadow!
Rosebud spoke: Then I shall prickle thee,
That thou ever thinkest of me,
And I shall not ever be allowing!
Rosebud, rosebud, rosebud red,
Wild rose on the meadow.

Then the headstrong lad did break
Rosebud on the meadow.
Rosebud, in defense, did prick,
'Twas, alas, a harmless nick,
Had to be allowing.
Rosebud, rosebud, rosebud red,
Wild rose on the meadow.

Written by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
English translation by Walter Meyer
(http://icking-music-archive.org/scores/schubert/heideng.pdf)


WHY DID YOU LOVE ME?
WHAT DID YOU WANT FROM ME?
WHY ARE YOU AFTER ME?
WHY, THOMAS? MUST IT BE ME?
THIS SCENT OF TIGHTLY-FURLED FLOWERS
IS WAFTING AROUND ME IN A HEADY EMBRACE.
THE CLOYING SWEET FRAGRANCE AS THEY BLOSSOM

MM

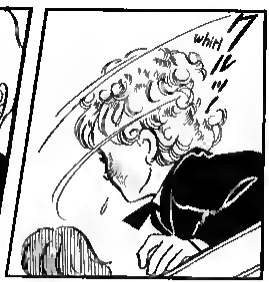

GOOD LYING IN BED AND TAKING IT EASY ONCE A WEEK IS A SENSIBLE HABIT...
AHH I DON'T FEEL LIKE DOING A THING

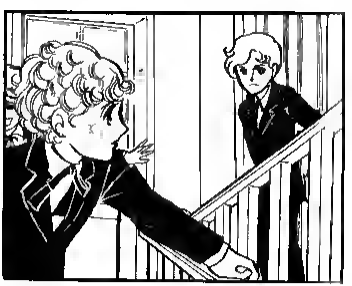
DON'T GO TO CLASS TODAY
I'LL LET THE TEACHERS KNOW YOU WON'T BE COMING IN.

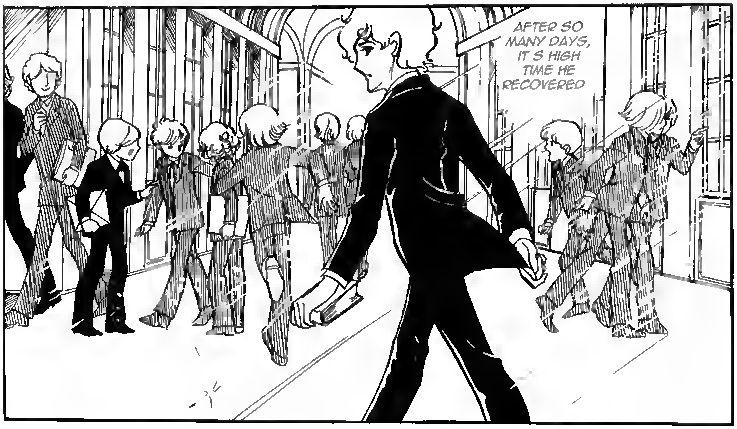
clack

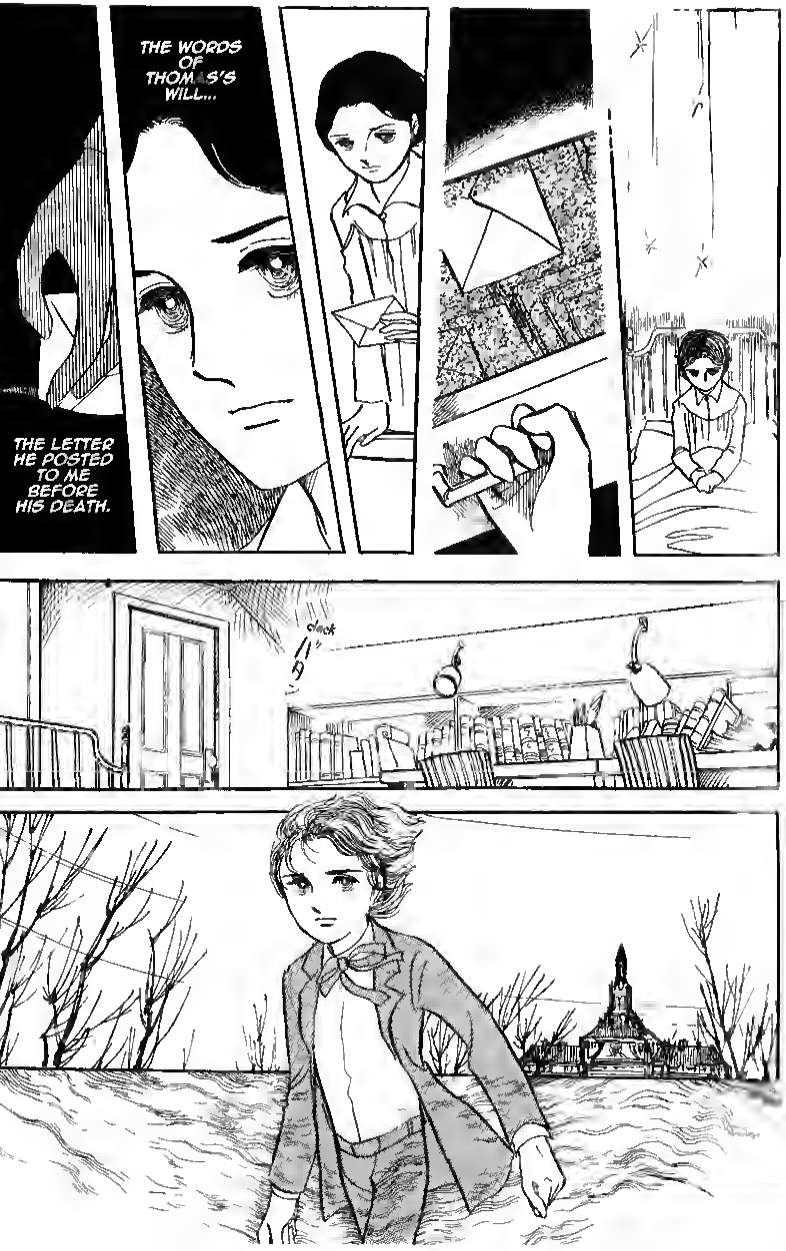
BYE!

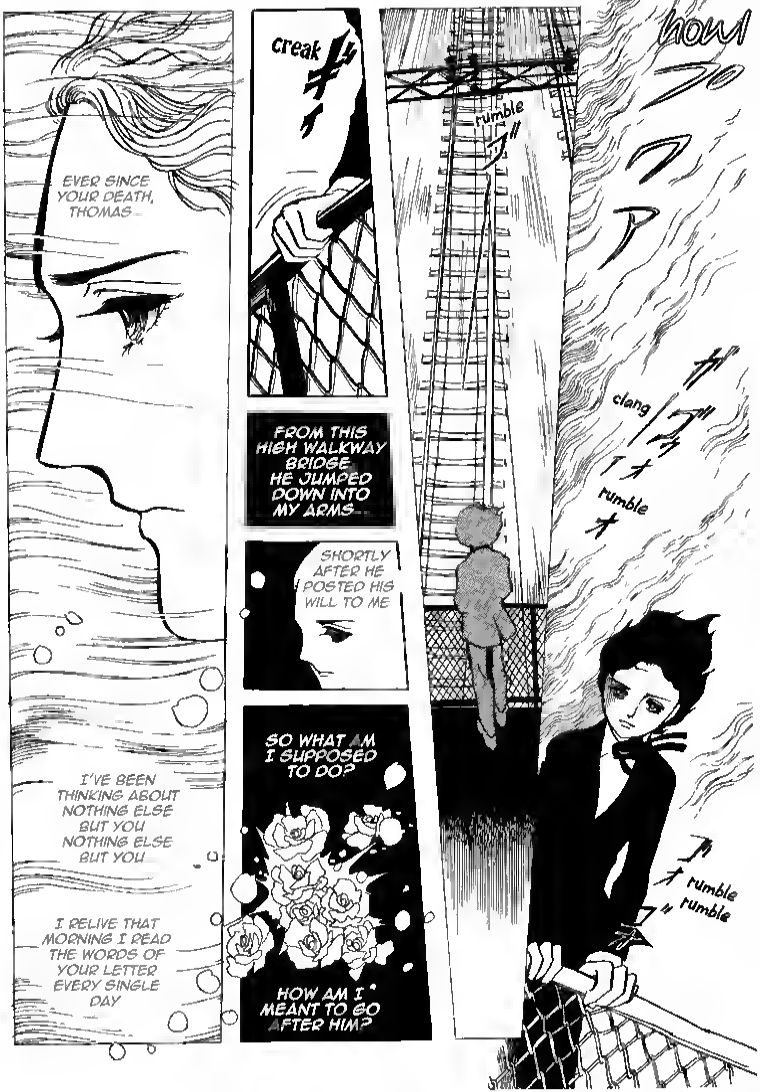
!


WHIH




AFTER SO MANY DAYS, IT'S HIGH TIME HE RECOVERED
HE HAS A BIT OF A MIGRAINE
HEY, OSCAR! GOOD MORNING! WHERE'S JULI?
FOR IT'S ALREADY BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE POOR THOMAS WERNER DIED IN THAT ACCIDENT – WELL, IN REALITY COMMITTED SUICIDE
EVERYONE'S ALREADY COMING TO TERMS WITH IT
HE'S BECOME QUITE POPULAR NOW THAT THOMAS IS GONE
ANTE ROHE HAS BEEN INVITED TO THE TEA PARTY HOSTED BY THE OLDER STUDENTS AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THOMAS
NOWADAYS THE BOYS WILL OCCASIONALLY ENGAGE IN A LITTLE GOSSIP ABOUT THE INCIDENT
FORGET THOMAS AND PUT THIS BEHIND HIM TOO!
SO THAT'S WHY JULI NEEDS TO...
EVERYONE IS STARTING TO FORGET ABOUT HIM.

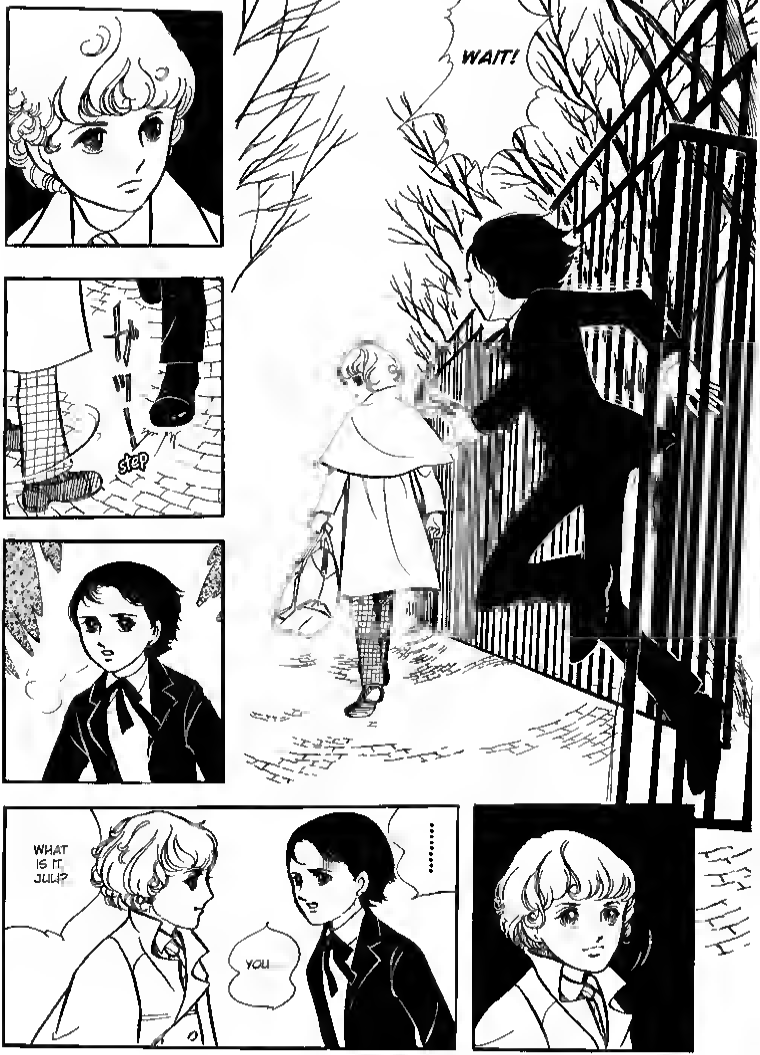

THE WORDS OF THOMAS'S WILL...
THE LETTER HE POSTED TO ME BEFORE HIS DEATH.
click


EVER SINCE YOUR DEATH, THOMAS...
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT NOTHING ELSE BUT YOU NOTHING ELSE BUT YOU...
I RELIVE THAT MORNING I READ THE WORDS OF YOUR LETTER EVERY SINGLE DAY...
creak
FROM THIS HIGH WALKWAY BRIDGE HE JUMPED DOWN INTO MY ARMS...
SHORTLY AFTER HE POSTED HIS WILL TO ME
SO WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
HOW AM I MEANT TO GO AFTER HIM?
rumble
clang
rumble
rumble
rumble

I'M ON A QUIET FOOT PATH
" THE SOUND OF MY HEART——"
"HERE IS THE SOUND OF MY HEART"
"HERE IS MY LOVE"
"FINALLY TO JULIUSMOLEN"
I MEMORIZED YOUR LETTER BY HEART
HEY, THOMAS. IT'S ME. I'VE COME TO SEE YOU.
IT'S ME
THANKS FOR THE LETTER
FOR YOUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
RIP
HERE IS MY REPLY! I WON'T BE CONTROLLED BY SOMEONE LIKE YOU!

DON'T YOU EVER APPEAR BEFORE ME THOMAS WERNER!
...NOT YOU, NOT ONE BIT!
I MYSELF WILL DECIDE WHAT'S REAL...
NOT YOU... EVER AGAIN!

.....
THOMAS·WERNER?!
dash
clang
AHH!


WAIT!
step
WHAT IS IT, JULI?
YOU...
.....

HEH. IT WAS A LUCKY GUESS!
ARE YOU ALSO A STUDENT OF SCHLOTTER-BETZ?
HUH?
SO YOU KNOW ME?!
JULI?
YES. I'M GOING TO BE A FIRST YEAR SENIOR STUDENT.
ARE YOU A SENIOR STUDENT TOO?
ARE YOU NEW HERE?
.....!
KOELN- Also known in English as Cologne
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
FROM KOELN, WESTFALEN.
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
THAT'S HARDLY GOOD MANNERS, IS IT?
SO YOU'LL LISTEN FOR MY NAME?
I'LL FIND OUT IN ANY CASE WHEN I HEAR OTHERS CALL YOUR NAME
I DON'T FEEL LIKE TELLING YOU
.....

DID YOU KNOW THOMAS WERNER?
!?
NEVER HEARD OF HIM! THAT'S NOT MY NAME IN ANY CASE! WHAT ON EARTH'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
NOTHING AT ALL
DID HE? SO WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ME?
HE'S A BOY WHO KILLED HIMSELF.
WHAT? THAT'S ABSURD!
NOTHING APART FROM THE FACT THAT YOUR FACE IS EXACTLY LIKE HIS

HIS NAME MUST ORIGINATE FROM THE MONTH OF JULY. THAT'S NOT EVEN A PROPER MAN'S NAME!
I DON'T LIKE HIM OR HIS NAME!
AND THE WAY HE ACCOSTED ME WITH A BARRAGE OF QUESTIONS?
WHAT'S WITH HIS PIERCING EYES
SO IS HE CALLED JULI?
CREEPY LAD!
HE'S A DESCENDANT OF SOME AUSTRIAN ARISTOCRAT, AND MY MOTHER MARIE WAS TAKEN IN BY HIM!
IT'S THE SAME NAME AS THAT MAN WHO ACTS AS IF HE'S MY FATHER – JULI SZYD I DON'T LIKE THAT POP AND HIS MUSTACHE EITHER!
WHO DOES THAT SCOUNDREL THINK HE IS? MARIE IS MY MOTHER! HE'LL REGRET THE DAY HE EVER TOOK HER AS HIS LOVER AND SENT ME, HER ONLY CHILD AWAY TO THIS SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRYSIDE!

Clunk
SORRY!
ARE YOU A NEW STUDENT? YOU CAN ENTER FROM THE SIDE GATE ON YOUR LEFT...
SORRY!

WHAT?
shove
HEY!
HE'S
?
IS THAT YOU WERNER?
whistle
HMM
HEY!
IS HE THE NEW STUDENT?
THERE!
HUH?
LOOK AT HIM!
WHAT?!
whistle
IS HE THE NEW BOY?
whistle
SO YOU'RE THE NEW BOY?!
WHY ARE THEY SO CURIOUS ABOUT ME?
THOMAS?
AHH!
THE BOY WHO KILLED HIMSELF?
LIKE TWO PEAS IN A POD!
BUT TAKE A LOOK AT HIM! HOW CAN THEY BE SO ALIKE?
DO YOU THINK HE'S THOMAS?
STOP WHISTLING SO MUCH!

RUBBISH! YOU'RE THE RUDE ONE!
Ah!
shove
BE CAREFUL! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING CALLED THAT!
WAIT! ARE YOU A NEW BOY HERE?
HEY
MY MISTAKE IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE HEADMASTER'S OFFICE, IT'S THIS WAY
I KNOW! I LOOK A LOT LIKE THOMAS, THAT BOY WHO KILLED HIMSELF!
BUT I OUGHT TO WARN YOU THAT YOU LOOK—
APOLOGIES FOR STARING EXCUSE ME IF I OFFENDED YOU IN ANY WAY

THAT KIND OF DRAMATIC TALK IS NOTHING MORE THAN ROMANTIC NONSENSE!
HOW DO YOU KNOW IT WAS SUICIDE? HE SIMPLY FELL FROM A WALKWAY BRIDGE
KILLED HIMSELF?
THOMAS WERNER'S DEATH WAS AN ACCIDENT.
JULIUSMOLE BAYHAN... YES, THAT LAD IS DEFINITELY A BIT UNSTABLE...
JULI
I KNOW! BUT JULI SAID IT HE WAS A CREEPY BOY.
DON'T WORRY THERE'S PLENTY OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO HAVE AN UNCANNY RESEMBLANCE TO SOMEONE ELSE!
UH-HUH
ACTUALLY, I THINK I FALL INTO THAT CATEGORY TOO!
HEH HEH
WHEN I DIE, I BET PEOPLE WILL SAY I'M THE EXACT IMAGE OF MY MOTHER APPARENTLY I HAVE THE FACE OF A LADY!
SO WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
HMM.
AM I SO IDENTICAL TO HIM IN LOOKS?
WHAT KIND OF BOY WAS THIS THOMAS WERNER?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE FUSS... REALLY, I HATE IT!
HE'S THE BOY WHO ENDED UP DYING IN THAT ACCIDENT.

FRUEHLING German name that means spring the season
When Oscar calls Eric Der Fruehling he s literally calling him Spring

YOU'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO CREATE QUITE A SENSATION AT THIS SCHOOL THAT'S FOR CERTAIN!
THEN, DER FRUEHLING...
ERIC FRUEHLING...
NOW REMEMBER, KNOCK BEFORE YOU ENTER!
WHO AM I? CALL ME OSCAR
WHO... ARE YOU?
YOU OUGHT TO KEEP THAT IN MIND, UNDERSTOOD?
HOWEVER, YOU ARE ERIC FRUEHLING... YOU'RE NOT THOMAS WERNER BY ANY MEANS
THOMAS ONLY DIED TWO WEEKS AGO. HE WAS A LAD WITH TOO MUCH TIME ON HIS HANDS.
AND ONE MORE THING...
gulp
ABOUT JULI— DON'T GET TOO FRIENDLY WITH HIM I'M NOT SURE IF THOMAS WAS PUSHED.

WHAM
clack
KNOCK ON THE DOOR BEFORE YOU ENTER!
AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
ERIC VON FRUEHLING.
WHAT A SCHOOL!
I SAY, ERIC... DO YOU HAVE ANY RELATIVES BY THE NAME OF WERNER?
WHAT A CRAZY... SCHOOL
I'M PLEASED TO MEET YOU I'M HEAD-MASTER MUELLER.
ERIC... AHH YOU'VE BEEN SENT HERE TO CONTINUE YOUR STUDIES
I SEE YOU'VE ARRIVED SAFELY.

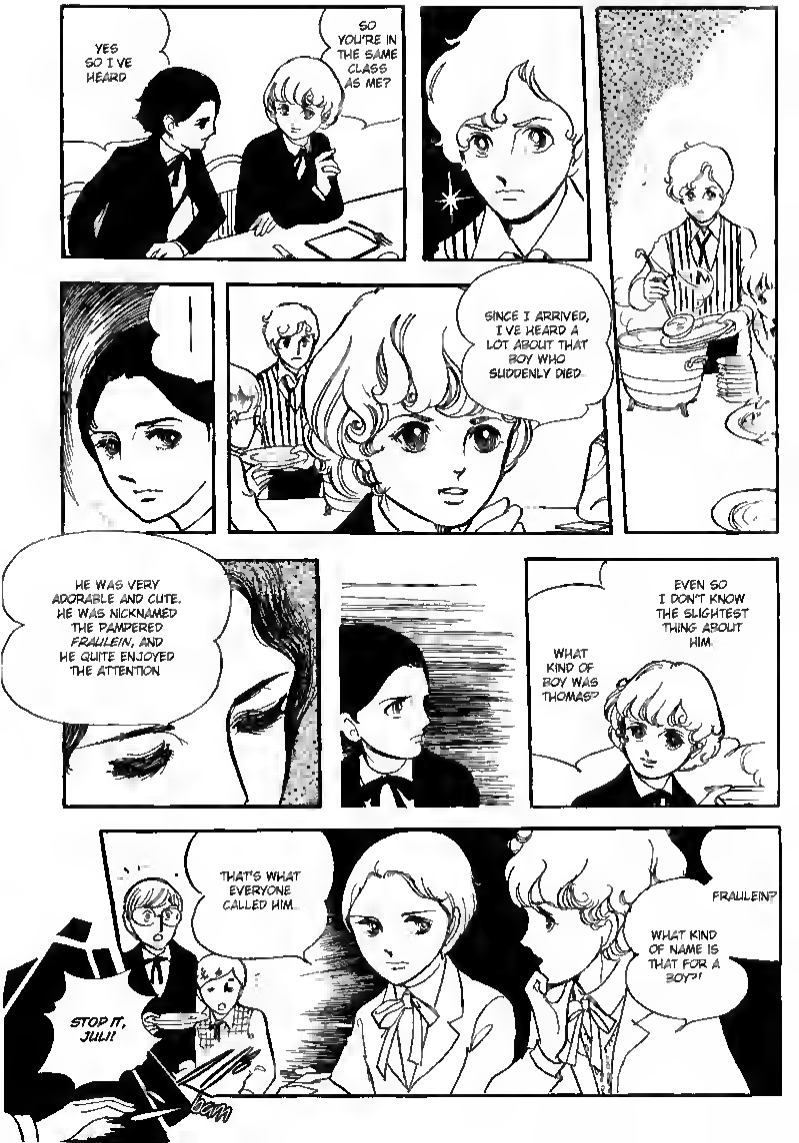
THOMAS WAS...
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS THOMAS WERNER!
MY MOTHER MARIE IS THE ONLY RELATIVE I'VE GOT!
SO THEN.
HOW ARE YOU RELATED TO YOUR GUARDIAN, JULI SZYD SCHWARTZ?
Mein
HMM... YOU MUST'VE STARTED SCHOOL A YEAR EARLIER THAN MOST STUDENTS
HE WOULD'VE BEEN IN THE GRADE BELOW YOU, BUT HE'S NO LONGER WITH US BECAUSE OF AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT
HE WAS A FINE PUPIL. HE WAS WELL-LIKED BY EVERYONE
MARIE IS BETROTHED TO HIM,
...BUT I DISAPPROVE OF THE UNION
I DON'T FEEL LIKE TAKING THE PLACE OF A DEAD BOY!
JULI WOULD NEVER HAVE PRETENDED TO BE ILL! AND HE'D NEVER LEAVE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS WITHOUT PERMISSION EITHER!
BUT HE CAN'T BE FOUND ANYWHERE! HE'S NOT IN HIS ROOM OR THE DINING HALL OR THE LIBRARY!
SINCE CLASS HAS ALREADY ENDED FOR THE DAY YOU CAN CHANGE INTO YOUR UNIFORM BEFORE DINNER.
Kachik
WELL COME WITH ME THIS IS THE PRIVATE STUDY ROOM

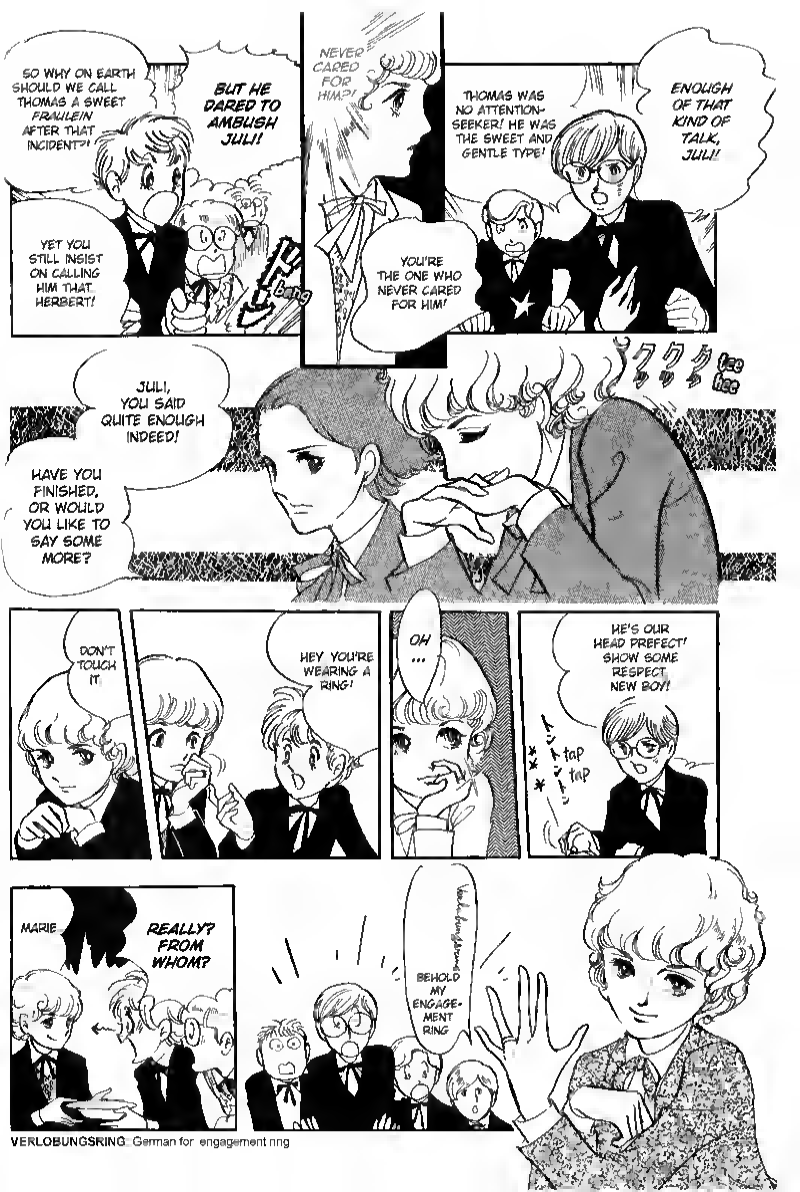
HEY!
WOW!
AHH!
EH?
Chicken
SILENCE, EVERYONE!
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE A NEW STUDENT TO OUR SCHOOL...
hush
It can't be!
Who is he?
Thomas
MY TALENT IS FENCING!
I'M ERIC FRUEHLING OF KOELN!
DO ANY OF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
BAM
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
kachik

WHO'S HE?
squeak
キュー!
WHERE DID YOU MEET ERIC FRUEHLING?
HE EVEN DECLARED THAT THOMAS KILLED HIMSELF!
THE NEW STUDENT! HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THOMAS!
DID YOU SPEAK TO ERIC?
ERIC FRUEHLING ...
THE CEMETERY ?!
I WENT TO THE CEMETERY. I MET HIM ON THE WAY BACK.
I STOOD BEFORE THOMAS'S GRAVE AND RIPPED HIS WILL TO SHREDS

THAT'S THE DINNER BELL. LET'S GO
clang
JULI
YOU LOOK AS IF A HEAVY WEIGHT HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM YOUR SHOULDERS
JULI WHAT NEXT... JULI?
BUT WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING THROUGH YOUR MIND?
ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT THOMAS...
...OR ERIC?
JULI, HE'S NOT THOMAS!
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ERIC?
SEE? THERE HE IS! HE'S THE NEW BOY FROM KOELN WHO ARRIVED TODAY!
HE'S GOING TO BE A FIRST YEAR SENIOR
HUH?
HE'LL JOIN THE SENIOR STUDENTS
TAKE A LOOK!

THAT'S RIGHT, ANTE!
HIM?
SURPRISING, HUH? HE'S A GREAT LIKENESS!
OVER HERE, ERIC!
HMPH! HE'S NOT THOMAS
HMM THE COLOR OF HIS HAIR AND EYES ARE DIFFERENT
Pfeu
HE'LL NEVER BE THOMAS...
OH NO!
I MET HIM AT THE CEMETERY! HE'S THAT FELLOW I DISLIKED!
THOMAS, THOMAS!
THIS SCHOOL IS DRIVING ME INSANE!
scrape
MY FACE IS NOT SOME EXHIBITION DISPLAY FOR YOU TO GAWK AT!


YES SO I'VE HEARD
SO YOU'RE IN THE SAME CLASS AS ME?
SINCE I ARRIVED, I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT THAT BOY WHO SUDDENLY DIED.
HE WAS VERY ADORABLE AND CUTE. HE WAS NICKNAMED THE PAMPERED FRAULEIN, AND HE QUITE ENJOYED THE ATTENTION
WHAT KIND OF BOY WAS THOMAS?
EVEN SO I DON'T KNOW THE SLIGHTEST THING ABOUT HIM.
THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE CALLED HIM.
FRAULEIN?
WHAT KIND OF NAME IS THAT FOR A BOY?!
STOP IT, JULI!
bam


SO WHY ON EARTH SHOULD WE CALL THOMAS A SWEET FRAULEIN AFTER THAT INCIDENT?!
BUT HE DARED TO AMBUSH JULI!
YET YOU STILL INSIST ON CALLING HIM THAT HERBERT!
Bang
NEVER CARED FOR HIM?!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEVER CARED FOR HIM!
THOMAS WAS NO ATTENTION-SEEKER! HE WAS THE SWEET AND GENTLE TYPE!
ENOUGH OF THAT KIND OF TALK, JULI!
JULI, YOU SAID QUITE ENOUGH INDEED!
HAVE YOU FINISHED, OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY SOME MORE?
tee hee
DON'T TOUCH IT
HEY YOU'RE WEARING A RING!
OH ...
HE'S OUR HEAD PREFECT! SHOW SOME RESPECT, NEW BOY!
tap tap
MARIE
REALLY? FROM WHOM?
BEHOLD MY ENGAGE-MENT RING

VERLOBUNGSRING: German for engagement ring

IT'S TOO TIGHT FOR ME TO REMOVE. I'D HAVE TO CUT MY RING OFF.
YOU SHOULD TAKE THAT RING OFF!
THEN CUT IT OFF!
MEINE MUTTER. MY MAMA
MARIE? WHO'S SHE?
EVERYONE'S ENTITLED TO THEIR LIKES AND DISLIKES! YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO AGGRAVATE PEOPLE, NEW BOY!
SO DIDN'T YOU CARE FOR THOMAS? WHY NOT?
JULI
WHAT AN IDIOT!
NEW BOY? STOP CALLING ME 'NEW BOY'! I'M JUST HAVING A CHAT WITH OUR HEAD PREFECT, FRECKLE-FACE!
—BEHIND THE DEATH OF THOMAS WERNER.
I THINK IT'S TIME YOU TOLD US THE REAL TRUTH.

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT HIS FOOT SLIPPED FROM THE WALKWAY BRIDGE
BUT WERE YOU THERE?
IT WAS AN ACCI-DENT
SPLASH
YOU PUSHED HIM OFF DIDN'T YOU?
RIGHT! NOW I'M CONVINCED YOU'RE A MURDERER!
AH..
cling!
LIE!
GO GET HIM, JULI! DO A HEADBUTT, FOLLOWED BY A SHOULDER CRASH AND A BODY SLAM!

shove
YOU'VE GOT NO MANNERS AT ALL! TAKE THAT!
AH!
STOP THAT, ERIC!
Wah!
SLIP
SLIP
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU MISSED ME!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
crash
A DIRECT HIT!
WAH!
HEY!
WATCH OUT! IT'LL TOPPLE OVER!
THERE!
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE UP FOR RUINING MY NEW SUIT?!
NO MORE!
BUT IT WASN'T ME!
speechless
UGH! YOU MUST BE JOKING!
KAA!

DON'T—
REMAIN IN YOUR SEATS, ALL OF YOU!
splish!
W-WHAT'S GOING ON?! EVERYONE, STOP THIS AT ONCE!
OH MY!
clunk
AH!H...
Mmm
HEY! STOP THAT OR ELSE, YOU IDIOTS!
YOU'RE THE ONE AT FAULT!
whisle
I'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH YOU!
splosh
STO—
HEY! IS THIS YOUR IDEA OF SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE?!
crash
bonk
bonk
OSCAR, YOU

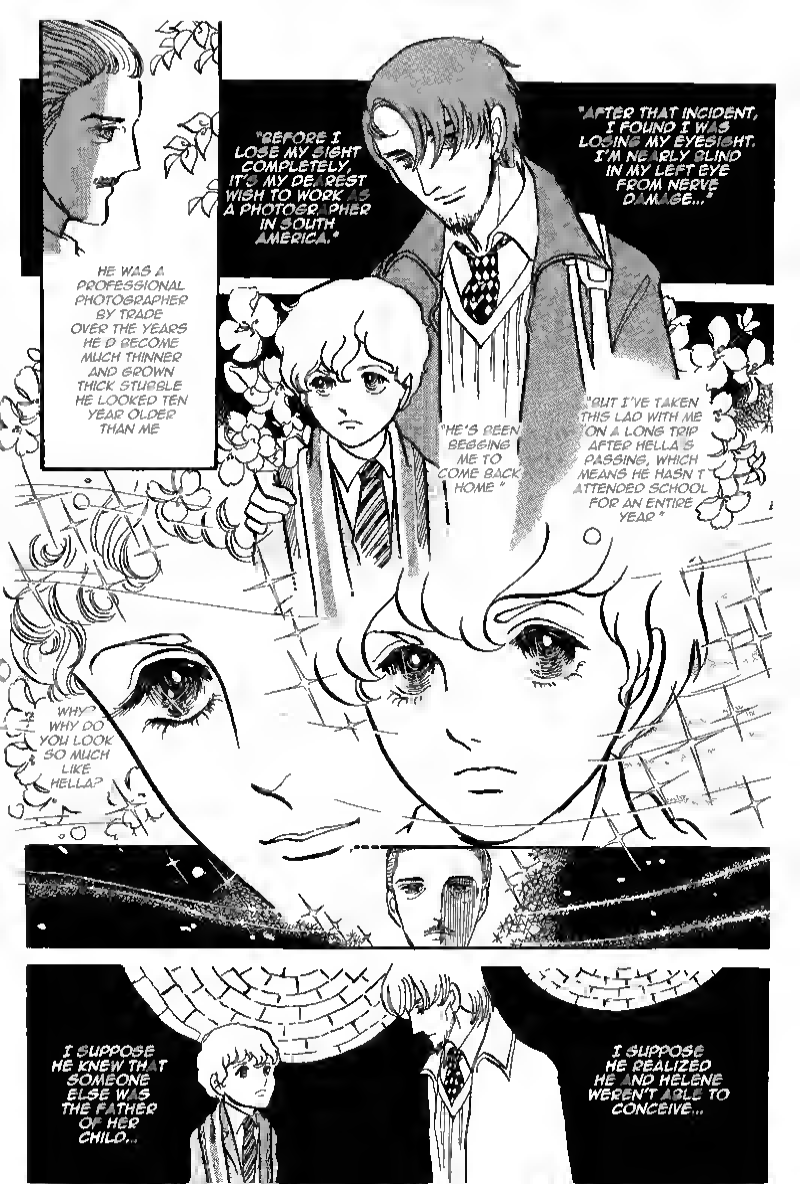
YOU THINK YOU CAN TREAT ME ANY WAY YOU LIKE?!
ゴー
SLAP
.....
AH

COME ON!
crash
AH...
chatter chatter
DINNER IS OVER FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO LEFT YOUR SEATS!
CLEAN YOURSELVES UP, CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES, AND GO TO BED ON THE DOUBLE!!
thud thud thud
WHAT RIGHT?!
WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO ORDER ME ABOUT?
conk
YOU STAY, LE BEBE!
TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

Slam
THE BUILDING WOULD'VE BEEN RAZED TO THE GROUND IN ANOTHER THIRTY SECONDS.
HE HAS LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL!
OSCAR REISER OFTEN NEGLECTS HIS SCHOOLWORK, BUT HIS JUDGMENT AND ABILITY TO TAKE DECISIVE ACTION ARE CRUCIAL AT TIMES LIKE THESE!
PHEW!
VERY WELL, SIR.
HOWEVER, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FINISH YOUR DINNER.
BUT I NEVER LEFT MY SEAT!
ANTE ROWE LEAVE THIS DINING HALL AS WELL!
HEH HEH
EVEN AS THE NEW STUDENT, OSCAR WAS A BRASH AND CHEEKY BOY!
whistle
HE NEVER CAME BACK TO VISIT HIM OR ANY OF US.
IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE WE LAST SAW HIM.
BY THE WAY, WHAT BECAME OF OSCAR'S FATHER?

HERR GUSTAV REISER PAID A VISIT TO SCHLOTTERBETZ HAND IN HAND WITH HIS YOUNG SON, OSCAR
FIVE YEARS AGO BENEATH A HAZY SKY FILLED WITH CHERRY BLOSSOMS
IT'S BEEN EIGHTEEN MONTHS SINCE MY WIFE PASSED AWAY
YES, I KNEW
GUSTAV AND I WERE FRIENDS BACK IN UNIVERSITY
WHILE IN THE FLUSH OF YOUTH, WE COMPETED FOR THE AFFECTIONS OF THE BEAUTIFUL HELENE
IN THE END, HELENE MARRIED GUSTAV

UNTIL I ARRIVED HERE AS THE FIFTH HEADMASTER OF SCHLOTTER-BETZ
I EMBARKED ON THE SOLITARY CAREER OF A SCHOLAR
WHEN CAN I EXPLAIN TO YOU THAT YOU WERE BROUGHT INTO THIS WORLD OUT OF MY LOVE FOR HELENE?
OSCAR, HOW SHOULD I TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE MY SON?
IT'S NOT THAT I'VE COMPLETELY LOST HOPE...
BEAUTIFUL HELLA HELLA, WHO WAS LIKE A WHITE SWAN
OHH... I DO LOVE GUSTAV
I'M OTHERWISE HEALTHY... AND I'VE HEARD THERE ARE ARTIFICIAL MEANS
THE PEISERS WERE UNABLE TO CONCEIVE A CHILD OF THEIR OWN FOR A LONG TIME
BUT I WANT A CHILD SO MUCH!
A FEW DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS
HE EXPLAINED THAT HE'D ACCIDENTALLY SHOT HER WITH A PISTOL
EIGHTEEN MONTHS BEFORE GUSTAV CAME TO SCHLOTTER-BETZ, HIS WIFE DIED


"BEFORE I LOSE MY SIGHT COMPLETELY, IT'S MY DEAREST WISH TO WORK AS A PHOTOGRAPHER IN SOUTH AMERICA."
"AFTER THAT INCIDENT, I FOUND I WAS LOSING MY EYESIGHT. I'M NEARLY BLIND IN MY LEFT EYE FROM NERVE DAMAGE..."
HE WAS A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER BY TRADE OVER THE YEARS HE'D BECOME MUCH THINNER AND GROWN THICK STUBBLE HE LOOKED TEN YEAR OLDER THAN ME
"HE'S BEEN BEGGING ME TO COME BACK HOME."
"BUT I'VE TAKEN THIS LAD WITH ME ON A LONG TRIP AFTER HELLA'S PASSING, WHICH MEANS HE HASN'T ATTENDED SCHOOL FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR."
WHY? WHY DO YOU LOOK SO MUCH LIKE HELLA?
I SUPPOSE HE KNEW THAT SOMEONE ELSE WAS THE FATHER OF HER CHILD..
I SUPPOSE HE REALIZED HE AND HELENE WEREN'T ABLE TO CONCEIVE...

WHEN DO I TELL HIM?
"OSCAR, I AM YOUR
TRUE FATHER."
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING, GUSTAV...
...ALL THOSE YEARS IN SOUTH AMERICA?
YOU MIGHT NEVER COME BACK TO SEE HIM AGAIN.
I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY HE BROUGHT OSCAR HERE TO MY SCHOOL
YES, HE'S IN OUR GRADE. HE WAS TRAVELING FOR A YEAR, SO HE MISSED A LOT OF SCHOOL. THAT'S WHY HE'S A YEAR BEHIND.
OW!
DAMN HIM! HE SLAPPED ME SO HARD!
ERR... ABOUT OSCAR, THAT TALL BOY...
IS HE REALLY A FIRST YEAR SENIOR LIKE US?
A TWIN ROOM? SO THERE'RE ROOMS LIKE THAT HERE?
IT MUST BE NICE TO HAVE A TWIN ROOM LIKE THEM!
HE AND JULI SHARE THE SAME ROOM.
HE'S THE ONLY SON OF AN OLD FRIEND OF OUR HEADMASTER, YOU SEE.
ERIC, IT'S BEST NOT TO ANTAGONIZE OSCAR.
HE'S EVEN GOT THE RESPECT OF THE HEADMASTER!

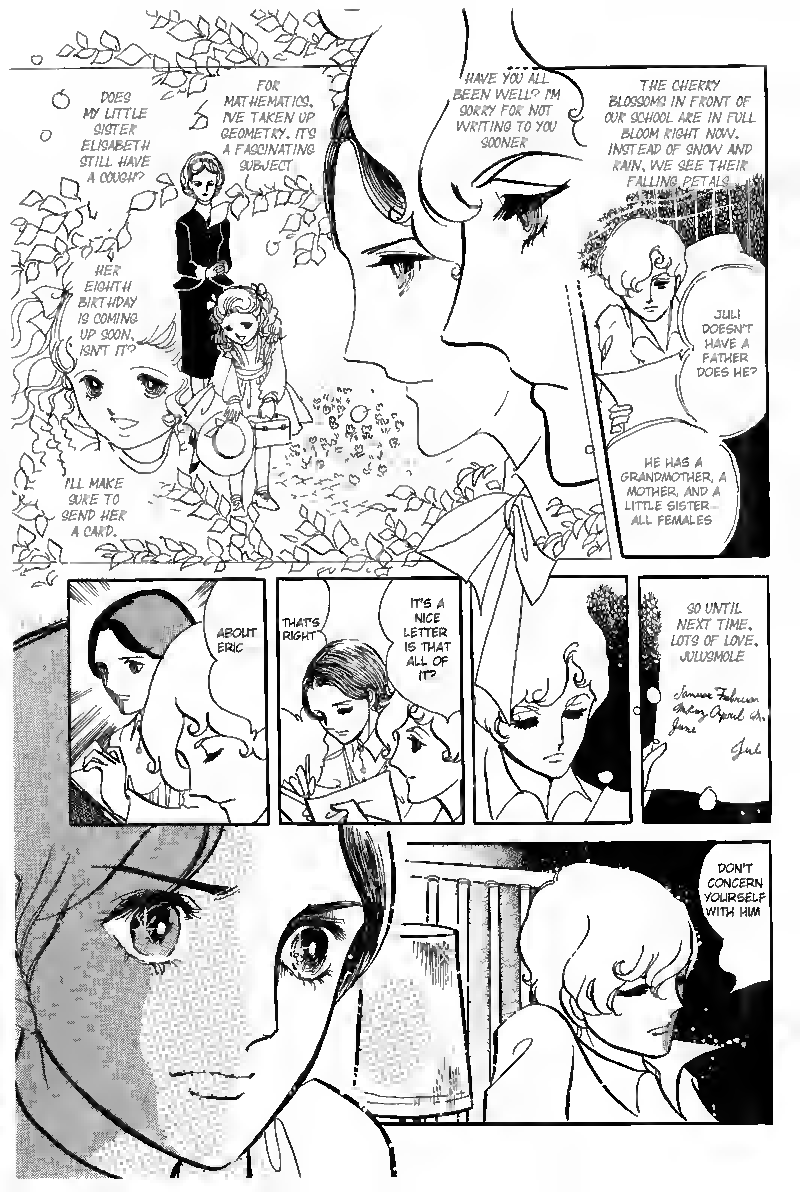
AS THE DORMITORY SUPERVISORS OF JOHANNES HALL, JULI AND OSCAR SHARE A TWIN ROOM OVER THERE
LOOK! SEE JOHANNES HALL OVER THERE?
THAT'S THE DORMITORY FOR THE INTERMEDIATE GRADES FIRST TO FOURTH YEARS
HOW DARE YOU !
YOU MEAN JULI WAS EVEN CHOSEN AHEAD OF THE LIKES OF YOU LOT?
PUPILS IN CHARGE OF DORMS? REALLY?
thwack
DON'T TOUCH ME!
YOU DON'T MIND ME PLAYING WITH THEM, DO YOU? THEY SPRING RIGHT BACK!
WHY, DEAR ERIC YOU'VE GOT RINGLETS BEHIND YOUR EARS SHAPED LIKE TENDRILS OF CRIMSON GLORY VINE
THOMAS WAS OFTEN INVITED TO THE TEA PARTY BECAUSE HE WAS GENTLE AND SWEET, BUT YOU'RE SOMETHING ELSE!
THAT NEW BOY IS TOUGH!
PFFF!
PREPARE FOR BED! IT'S PAST OUR CURFEW!

DAMMIT, I DON'T KNOW AND I DON'T CARE ABOUT THIS BRAT NAMED THOMAS!
HA HA! OSCAR USED IT ON YOU!
IT MEANS BABY!
IT'S FRENCH
LE BEBE ?
DON'T CREATE A RUCKUS IN MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, LE BEBE!
QUICK! PREPARE FOR BED!
DESPITE WHAT YOU MAY THINK, YOU'RE NOW IN A SCHOOL! AS PART OF LIVING IN A DORMITORY, YOU SHOULD OBEY OUR BASIC RULES AND STRUCTURES! NOW BEHAVE YOURSELF!
WHAT ARE YOU JABBING ME FOR?! I'M THE ONE IN CHARGE OF THIS ROOM!
LITTLE WHAT?
YOU, LITTLE
clap
LIEB! ADAM! YOU THERE, IGOR! FINISH WASHING YOURSELVES THIS MINUTE!

HE'S NOT TYPICAL ROYALTY, IS HE?
DID YOU HEAR? OUR LITTLE FRIEND HAS ALWAYS HAD A PRIVATE TUTOR!
WHO'S HE THE SON OF?
HE EVEN WEARS A RING!
YES. AND IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN TO SCHOOL AS WELL
ANYWAY, I GUESS IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME LIVING AS A BOARDING STUDENT
LIGHTS OUT
SCHOOL? SURELY YOU'VE BEEN TO SCHOOL BEFORE?
NO. MARIE NEVER ALLOWED ME TO GO. I HAD A TUTOR WHO CAME TO MY HOME
AT SCHOOL
THERE'S SO MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE
IT'S A NOISY AND BOISTEROUS PLACE, FULL OF EXCITEMENT.
BUT AS FOR THAT FELLOW...
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
sigh
I LOOK A LOT LIKE THAT DEAD BOY THOMAS,
BUT HE NEVER TOOK A LIKING TO THOMAS
HE WATCHES ME WITH A TREACHEROUS GAZE
HE'S GOING TO BE A SERIOUS NUISANCE

SCHOOL IS USE-LESS!
SO I'LL GO BACK HOME AT ONCE!
"MARIE! I'M BACK!
THEN I'LL LEAD INTO HER ARMS AGAIN!
"MY DEAR BRIGITTE COME BACK HOME! MAMA MADE A MISTAKE!"
SOON A LETTER WILL ARRIVE FOR ME.
CAN MARIE MANAGE WITHOUT MY COMPANY?
AUSTRIAN MAN BE MORE IMPORTANT TO HER THAN ME?
MARIE...

SORRY, BUT I'M KEEPING THE LIGHT ON FOR A BIT...
FOR I'M WRITING A LETTER TO MY FAMILY BACK HOME
LET'S GO STRAIGHT TO BED. TIME TO SLEEP!
IT'S THE END OF ANOTHER DAY
ROLL-CALL WAS TAKEN WITHOUT A HITCH
SURE, I DON'T MIND
CAN YOU SLEEP WITH THE LIGHT ON?
THAT'S HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE THOMAS WERNER DIED
TWO WEEKS
COME TO THINK OF IT, JULI HASN'T WRITTEN A LETTER TO HIS FAMILY FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS
ISN'T IT AN ODD COINCIDENCE? AS DORM SUPERVISORS WHO SHARE THE SAME ROOM, OSCAR HAS NO MOTHER
WHILE I HAVE NO FATHER
I THINK WE'VE DEVELOPED A MUTUAL ENVY OF EACH OTHER BECAUSE WE SPEND A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER
YOU ALWAYS LIKE READING MY LETTERS DON'T YOU?
SURE IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL
CAN I TAKE A LOOK?
rip
BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE A PROPER FAMILY OF MY OWN
AHH, I FIND LETTERS ADDRESSED TO ONE'S FAMILY QUITE FASCINATING...
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T WRITE LETTERS TO MY FATHER SINCE HE'S GONE TO SOUTH AMERICA. I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY NEWS FROM HIM FOR FIVE YEARS


DOES MY LITTLE SISTER ELISABETH STILL HAVE A COUGH?
FOR MATHEMATICS, I'VE TAKEN UP GEOMETRY. IT'S A FASCINATING SUBJECT.
HER EIGHTH BIRTHDAY IS COMING UP SOON, ISN'T IT?
I'LL MAKE SURE TO SEND HER A CARD.
HAVE YOU ALL BEEN WELL? I'M SORRY FOR NOT WRITING TO YOU SOONER
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN FRONT OF OUR SCHOOL ARE IN FULL BLOOM RIGHT NOW. INSTEAD OF SNOW AND RAIN, WE SEE THEIR FALLING PETALS.
JULI DOESN'T HAVE A FATHER DOES HE?
HE HAS A GRANDMOTHER, A MOTHER, AND A LITTLE SISTER— ALL FEMALES
ABOUT ERIC
THAT'S RIGHT
IT'S A NICE LETTER IS THAT ALL OF IT?
SO UNTIL NEXT TIME, LOTS OF LOVE. JULY/MOLE
DON'T CONCERN YOURSELF WITH HIM

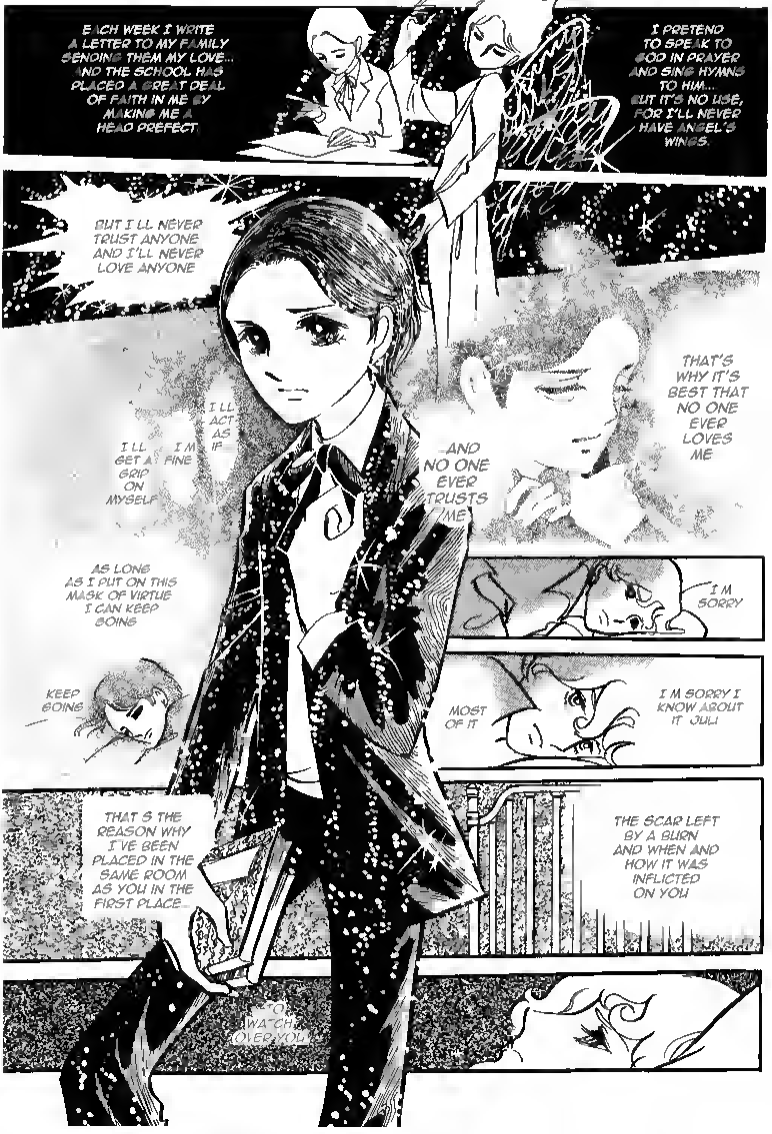
DON'T BE ILL BE ALL RIGHT WITHOUT YOUR HELP
WELL, I'M STILL WORRIED ABOUT YOU
YOU'RE THE ONE
...WHO SHOULDN'T CONCERN YOURSELF WITH ME
!
REALLY ?
IF THAT'S THE CASE GOOD FOR YOU
I'M NOT CONCERNED ABOUT HIM.
IF I THOUGHT YOU WERE OF SOUND MIND, THEN OF COURSE I'D LEAVE YOU ALONE!
THEN DON'T MAKE ME WORRY SO MUCH!
HOW CAN I NOT BE CONCERNED ABOUT YOU HAVING WEIRD FITS IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT?!
IT'S PAST THE TIME FOR LIGHTS OUT AND I'VE ALREADY WRITTEN MY LETTER
JULI!
GOOD NIGHT
click
!
click
BUT THAT'S NO...
YOU LOST YOUR TEMPER WITH THE NEW BOY, DIDN'T YOU?
HE KEPT HARPING ON ABOUT THOMAS
I KNOW HE DID

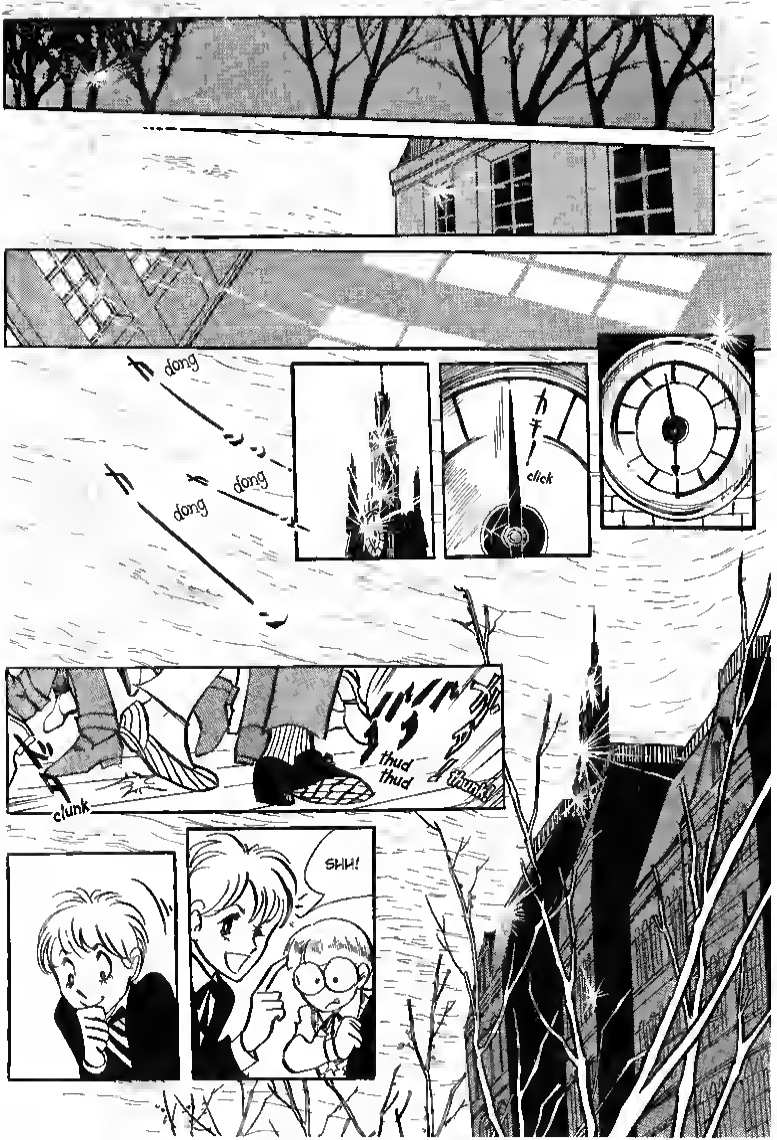
click
click
SOMEONE'S STILL TRYING TO TALK TO YOU!
AND I FEEL SLEEPY!
YOU FIBBER! WHY WON'T YOU AT LEAST HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY?
YOU'RE NOT SAYING ANYTHING WORTH HEARING
WELL THEN, WHAT ABOUT THAT LETTER?
YOU THINK EVERYTHING'S FINE? THEN WHY NOT TELL YOUR FAMILY ALL ABOUT THOMAS'S SUICIDE AND THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW STUDENT? BUT YOU LEFT THOSE EVENTS OUT ON PURPOSE!
grab
RETURN MY LETTER!
!
A DEEP SCAR SHAPED LIKE A LEERING GRIN!
gasp

DOES IT—
...SHOCK YOU? IT'S AN OLD SCAR
I... FELL AND HIT MYSELF AGAINST A DESK.
GEEZ!
I'M GOING TO BED NOW!
IT'S NO BIG DEAL TO ME! THERE'S NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THAT SCAR!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO IGNORE SOMEONE'S EFFORTS TO GIVE YOU FRIENDLY ADVICE...
...THEN STICK TO DOING WHAT-EVER YOU WANT!
HAH! I JUST HOPE YOU'RE NOT THAT MUCH OF A FOOL!
GOOD NIGHT!
click

ANYWAY IT'S NOT AS IF OSCAR WASN'T HORRIFIED
HE QUICKLY HID HIS TRUE FEELINGS WHEN HE NOTICED MY ALARM.
THERE'S NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THAT SCAR!
DON'T OTHERS DO SO AS WELL?
AT SCHOOL, I CUT AND BRUISE MYSELF ON A DAILY BASIS.
THERE WAS A LAD WHO PRETENDED HE WAS TARZAN AND BROKE THREE BONES IN HIS FEET WHILE SWINGING FROM A BEECH TREE
I EXPLAINED IT EASILY ENOUGH
I FELL... AND HIT A DESK
IT'S NOT AS IF THIS IS THE FIRST TIME!
A LIAR? IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE?
YOU'RE MAKING UP LIES, JULIUSMOLE BAYHAN!
A BRAND THAT WILL NEVER FADE! A MARK TO BE CARRIED FOR ETERNITY!
OHH, IT'S THE SPELL OF A DEMON'S CONTRACT SEALED IN BLOOD...
THIS SCAR
THIS SCAR

"DOES THAT MEAN
ARGH
AHH...
AH...
"DOES THAT MEAN YOU LOVE NO ONE?"
AH... AH!
AH
THOMAS WERNER, GET AWAY FROM ME! GO AWAY! DON'T COME NEAR ME!
I COULD'VE CONTINUED LIVING WITH THIS SECRET AS LONG AS NO ONE ELSE KNEW WHAT I TRULY AM!


EACH WEEK I WRITE A LETTER TO MY FAMILY SENDING THEM MY LOVE... AND THE SCHOOL HAS PLACED A GREAT DEAL OF FAITH IN ME BY MAKING ME A HEAD PREFECT.
I PRETEND TO SPEAK TO GOD IN PRAYER AND SING HYMNS TO HIM... BUT IT'S NO USE, FOR I'LL NEVER HAVE ANGEL'S WINGS.
BUT I'LL NEVER TRUST ANYONE AND I'LL NEVER LOVE ANYONE
THAT'S WHY IT'S BEST THAT NO ONE EVER LOVES ME
I'LL ACT AS IF...
I'LL GET A GRIP ON MYSELF
I'M FINE
AND NO ONE EVER TRUSTS ME
AS LONG AS I PUT ON THIS MASK OF VIRTUE I CAN KEEP GOING
I'M SORRY
KEEP GOING
I'M SORRY I KNOW ABOUT IT ALL
MOST OF IT
THAT'S THE REASON WHY I'VE BEEN PLACED IN THE SAME ROOM AS YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THE SCAR LEFT BY A BURN AND WHEN AND HOW IT WAS INFLICTED ON YOU
I'LL WATCH OVER YOU


dong
dong
dong
click
thud
thud
thunk
clunk
SHH!

OH, ERIC DEAR!
IT'S MORNING, ERIC! RISE AND SHINE!
RISE AND SHINE, ERIC! IT'S MORNING! YOU'RE SLEEPING IN!
HEH HEH
MM...
I'LL GET UP IF YOU KISS ME, MARIE.
Wash!
jolt
YOU SAID YOU'D GET UP IF YOU WERE KISSED BY MARIE!
click
!!
slam

dong
dong
dong
DOESN'T THIS SCHOOL HAVE ANY HOT WATER?
I NEED HOT WATER!
splish
Yawn
dong
COULD IT BE TIME FOR MASS?
WHAT'S THE TIME? THE BELL IS SO LOUD!
GOOD GRIEF!
flip
stare
NEVER MIND. I DON'T LOOK FILTHY
splash
FORGET IT

NOTE The students are singing the German national anthem (*Das Deutschlandlied*

I THINK I CAME IN THROUGH THE WRONG DOOR...
HELLO! HOW DO YOU DO? SO YOU'RE THE EAGER NEW STUDENT!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT SING ALONG! YOU CAN USE THIS BOOK HERE
Glückes
Fortunes
Bluh
Flourish
ブリュー
snicker snicker
クククッ
Einigkeit und Recht und
Unity and justice and~
in
イン
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?
BACCHUS THE ROMAN GOD OF WINE!
RELAX! WE JUST THINK YOU DO A GREAT JOB OF LIVING UP TO YOUR NAME!
ARE YOU A FINAL YEAR STUDENT?
INDEED I AM CALL ME BACCHUS
YOU SEE, THIS IS WHERE THE FINAL YEARS SIT
IT'S NOT EASY FOR A SOPRANO LIKE YOU TO BLEND IN THE BASS SECTION
YOU SOUND OUT OF PLACE, NEW BOY! YOUR VOICE HASN'T BROKEN YET, HAS IT?
Glückes
Fortunes
blühe
flourish

I'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU! WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME TO THE NEXT TEA PARTY?
A TEA PARTY?
I'LL COME AND FETCH YOU WHEN THE TIME COMES. IT'S ON SATURDAY AT FOUR P.M.
ERIC IS OVER THERE!
HE'S WITH BACCHUS
HE MUST'VE ENTERED THE DOOR MEANT FOR THE FINAL YEAR STUDENTS
WELL?
WHAT WAS BACCHUS TALKING TO YOU FOR?

GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING!
Smirk
IN THEIR UNIFORMS THEY REMIND ME OF MONKEYS!
WHY ARE THEY ALL HANGING OUT OF THE WINDOW?
chuckle
STOP PICKING ON HIM, HERBERT!
HIS FACE IS LIKE AN OPEN BOOK!
WITH A GRIN LIKE THAT, OUR LITTLE FRIEND MUST BE PLEASED WITH HIMSELF!
DID MARIE GIVE YOU A BIG KISS THIS MORNING?

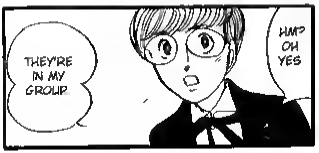
ERIC IS NOTHING MORE THAN A NEW STUDENT WHO ARRIVED YESTERDAY
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU ALL?!
I AM NOT THOMAS!
MMF!
SHH! WE KNOW THAT ALREADY!
STAY OVER HERE, ERIC!
HAVE YOU STARTED TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT THOMAS?
WELL, PARDON ME, HEAD PREFECT! BUT WHY ARE YOU TREATING HIM DIFFERENTLY COMPARED TO YESTERDAY?
BECAUSE I SUSPECT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS TROUBLE THINKING OF THE NEW BOY AS A UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL.
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO ARGUE OVER THIS HERBERT.
WE, AS JULIUSMOLE'S LOYAL DEFENDERS, ARE TO DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO PROTECT YOU FROM HERBERT'S SARCASM!
THEN THE DECISION IS FINAL!

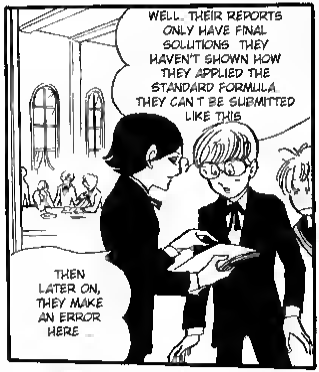
I MAY SOUND PARANOID AND INSECURE, BUT I'VE SEEN THE WAY THAT JULI FELLOW TWISTS THE WORDS OF OTHERS! HE'S SNEAKY!
HE'S MADE A BIG MISTAKE!
bang
DON'T WORSEN YOUR OWN MISTAKE, HERBERT!
YOU'RE MISTAKEN! ANYWAY, I COULD NEVER STAND THE SIGHT OF YOU FROM THE START, JULUSMOLE BAYHAN!
THE OTHERS WANT TO INCLUDE ERIC IN THE GROUP DON'T THEY?
HM?
BAC-CHUS!
HEY, OSCAR?
whomp
shhhh

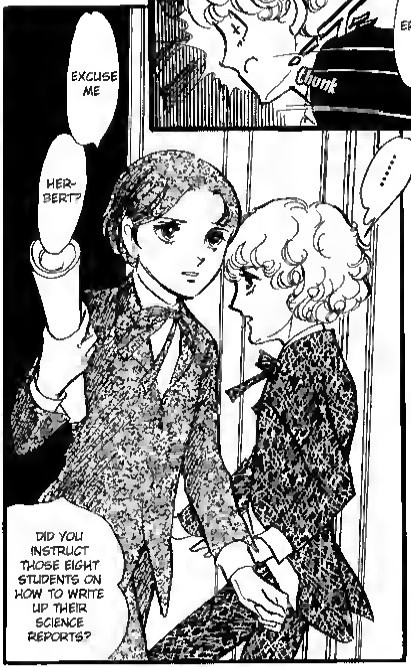
DON'T DISTURB ME. I'M TRYING TO TAKE A NAP. I DIDN'T GET ANY SLEEP LAST NIGHT.
WHY DO YOU HAVE THE DAY OFF? THIS IS MY HIDEOUT, REMEMBER? DO YOU WANT A CIGARETTE?
Here?
I INVITED THE NEW BOY TO THE NEXT ONE
OH THE TEA PARTY
I DON'T FIND IT THAT AMUSING
I DON'T SEE MUCH OF YOU YOU OUGHT TO SHOW UP AT THE TEA PARTY ONCE IN A WHILE
HM?
ALTHOUGH HE'S GOT A SHORT FUSE, HE'S A GOOD BOY, ISN'T HE?
MM HMM.
ERIC?
IS HE GOOD?
THAT'S THE QUESTION
SO YOU'RE HAVING TEA WITH BACCHUS?
I'M SURE HE IS

I GUESS YOUR CURLS CAUGHT HIS EYE. THEY MAKE YOU LOOK CUTE!
SO I HAVE TO BE NOMINATED?
IS IT GREAT?
IT'S THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE IN OUR CLASS HAS BEEN INVITED!
WOW! ISN'T THAT GREAT!
ME? CUTE?
IF HE NOMINATES YOU, THEN I THINK YOU'LL BE CALLED UP VERY SOON!
ANTE?
PFFH
UMM... WHY DON'T YOU GO AND READ THE NEWSPAPERS IN THE HEADMASTER'S OFFICE? YOU NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR YOUR NEXT CLASS
NOW THE VACANT SPOT IS TAKEN BY THAT FOOL ANTE
THOMAS WERNER WAS A REGULAR GUEST AT THE TEA PARTY WHEN HE WAS ALIVE
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO WHAT?
BUT I THOUGHT OSCAR'S THE ONLY STUDENT WHO CAN READ THE NEWSPAPERS IN THE HEADMASTER'S OFFICE

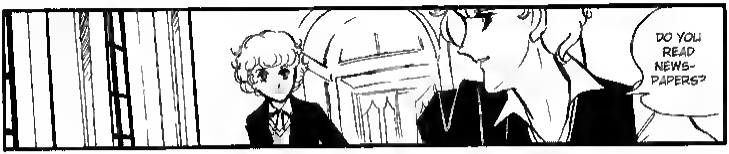
BUT NO ONE SAID THAT YOU WERE! ERIC, WAIT!
I'LL REFUSE ANY INVITATION TO BE A STAND-IN FOR FRAULEIN THOMAS!
later
ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE THE PLACE OF FOOLISH ANTE?
NO, I WON'T!
clink
WHO ARE THEY CALLING CUTE? I'M NOT SOME KIND OF GIRL!
I'M SAYING YOUR FACE IS A LOT LIKE HIS THAT'S ALL
DO YOU RASCALS CALL YOURSELF JULIUSMOLE'S DEFENDERS? WHY, I THINK HE'S PUT YOU UP TO THIS—
HE REALLY IS!
HE'S HARD-WORKING AND FAIR AND HONEST
JULI'S AN EXCELLENT HEAD PREFECT
ERIC— YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG
DON'T TOUCH ME!
I'M NOT YOUR PLAY-THING!
Ack!
NOTHING GOOD CAN COME OUT OF SPENDING TIME WITH THEM, ERIC! THEY'RE FOOLISH, UNCOUTH BOORS!
YOU KEEP OUT OF THIS! IF WE HAD TO LOOK LIKE YOU TO BE CONSIDERED CUTE THEN WE'D ALL RATHER BE UGLY!
BUT THE FACT IS JULI DESPISED THOMAS
DON'T TELL ME HE'S BLIND TO ERIC'S LIKENESS TO THOMAS.


THEY'RE IN MY GROUP.
HM? OH YES


WELL. THEIR REPORTS ONLY HAVE FINAL SOLUTIONS. THEY HAVEN'T SHOWN HOW THEY APPLIED THE STANDARD FORMULA. THEY CAN'T BE SUBMITTED LIKE THIS.
THEN LATER ON, THEY MAKE AN ERROR HERE...


EXCUSE ME
HER-BERT?
DID YOU INSTRUCT THOSE EIGHT STUDENTS ON HOW TO WRITE UP THEIR SCIENCE REPORTS?

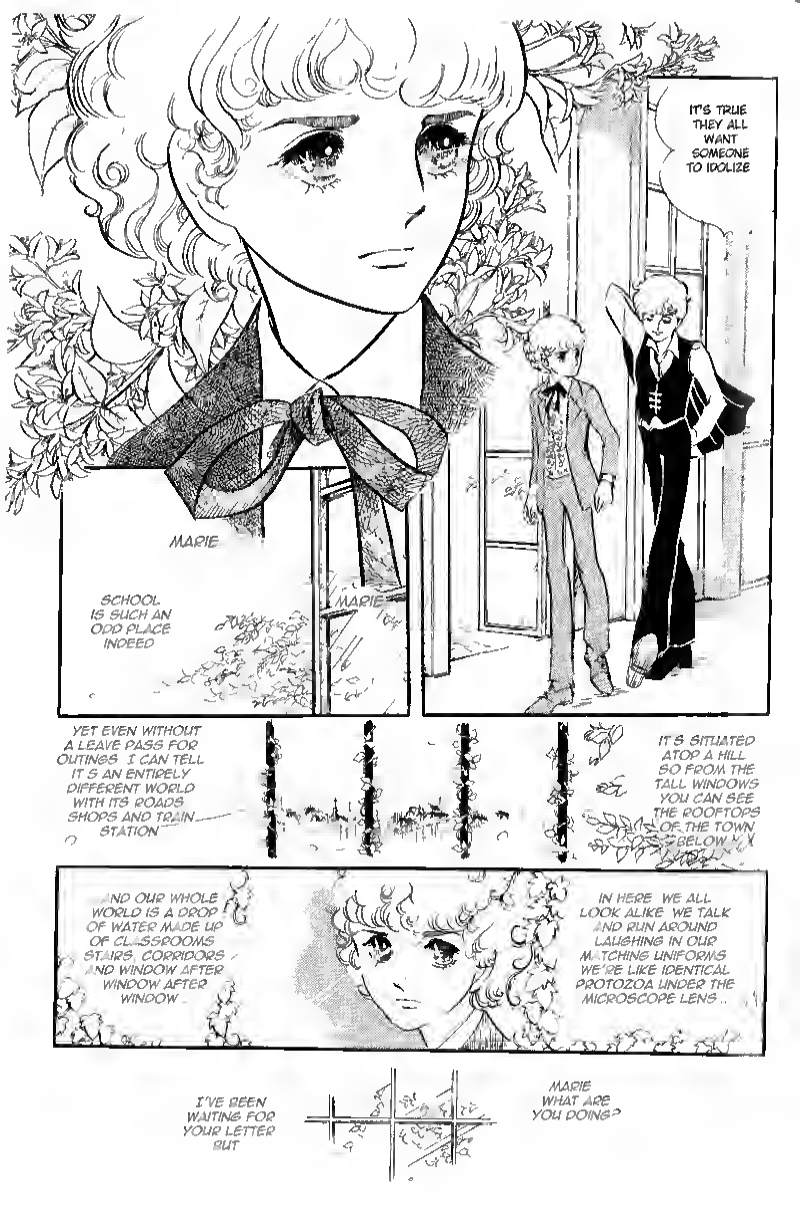
ERIC!
Thunk


DO YOU READ NEWS-PAPERS?

THAT'S A LIE

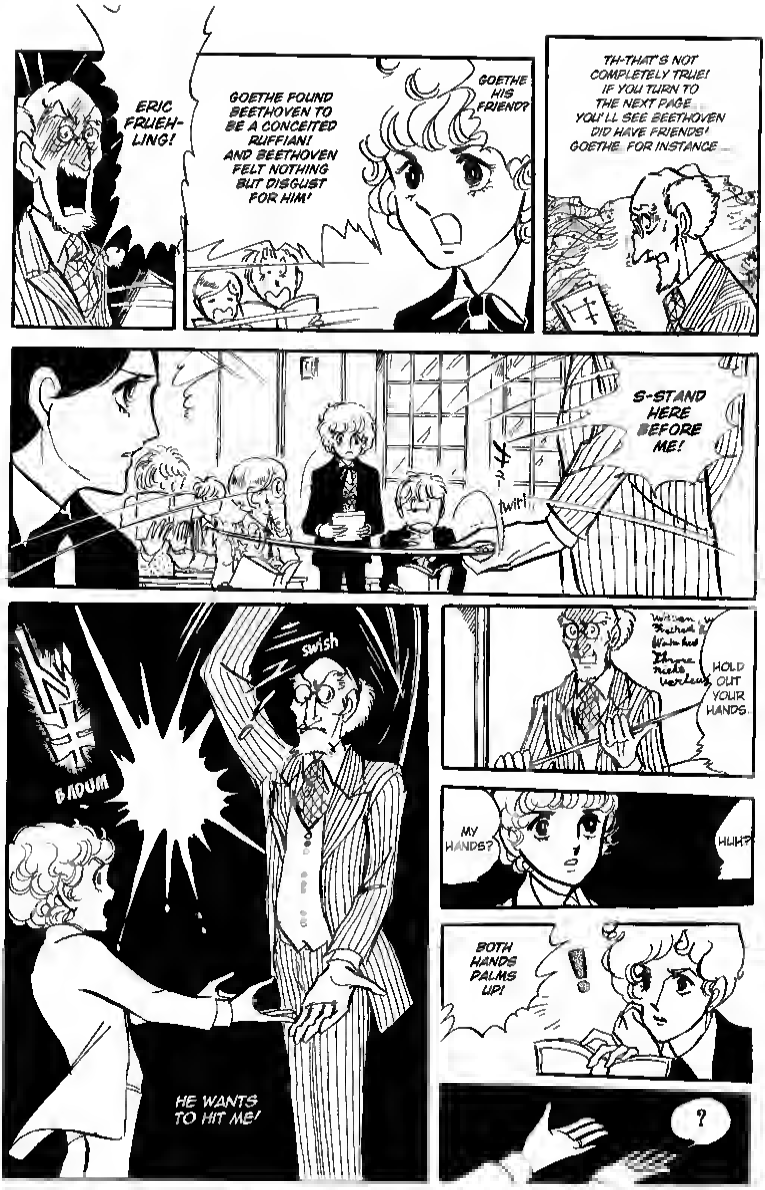
DON'T SAY THAT. THAT RABBLE SEEM TO LIKE YOU.

WHY SHOULD I? PLUS I'VE GOT NO TIME FOR THAT RABBLE! THEY USE OTHERS AS PAWNS IN THEIR DISPUTES!


IT'S TRUE THEY ALL WANT SOMEONE TO IDOLIZE
MARIE
SCHOOL IS SUCH AN ODD PLACE INDEED
MARIE
YET EVEN WITHOUT A LEAVE PASS FOR OUTINGS I CAN TELL IT'S AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT WORLD WITH ITS ROADS SHOPS AND TRAIN STATION
IT'S SITUATED ATOP A HILL SO FROM THE TALL WINDOWS YOU CAN SEE THE ROOFTOPS OF THE TOWN BELOW
AND OUR WHOLE WORLD IS A DROP OF WATER MADE UP OF CLASSROOMS STAIRS CORRIDORS AND WINDOW AFTER WINDOW AFTER WINDOW
IN HERE WE ALL LOOK ALIKE WE TALK AND RUN AROUND LAUGHING IN OUR MATCHING UNIFORMS WE'RE LIKE IDENTICAL PROTOZOA UNDER THE MICROSCOPE LENS
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOUR LETTER BUT
MARIE WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HEILIGENSTADT TESTAMENT a famous letter found after Beethoven s death Addressed to his brothers it reveals the composer's despair over his worsening deafness his rejection of suicide as an opt on and his struggle to continue compos ng mus c in self-imposed isolat on

WHY DID BEETHOVEN WRITE THE HEILIGENSTADT TESTAMENT? WELL?
I'VE CALLED YOUR NAME THREE TIMES!
ERIC FRUEHLING!
ERIC FRUEH-LING!
WERE YOU LISTENING AT ALL, NEW BOY?
HOW EASILY YOUR MIND WANDERS DURING AFTERNOON CLASS!
HE WROTE IT BECAUSE HE FELT HE WAS ABOUT TO DIE
HIS TESTA-MENT
ALL THE ACCOLADES WENT TO HIS HEAD! THEN HIS DEAFNESS AND MYOPIA LEFT HIM A WRECK!
REJECTED BY THE WOMAN HE LOVED, HE WENT MAD WITH GRIEF THEN HIS FRIENDS DESERTED HIM, HE BEGAN DRINKING TOO MUCH, AND THE ALCOHOL DAMAGED HIS STOMACH!
WHY IS THIS TEACHER SO RUDE?
IF HE WERE MY TUTOR I'D FIRE HIM!
IS THAT YOUR ANSWER? YOU'VE GOT YOUR BOOK OPEN AT THE WRONG PAGE!
YOU DARE SAY THAT... ABOUT THE GREAT BEETHOVEN


ERIC FRUEH-LING!
GOETHE FOUND BEETHOVEN TO BE A CONCEITED RUFFIAN! AND BEETHOVEN FELT NOTHING BUT DISGUST FOR HIM!
GOETHE HIS FRIEND?
TH-THAT'S NOT COMPLETELY TRUE! IF YOU TURN TO THE NEXT PAGE YOU'LL SEE BEETHOVEN DID HAVE FRIENDS! GOETHE FOR INSTANCE...
S-STAND HERE BEFORE ME!
twirl
HOLD OUT YOUR HANDS.
MY HANDS?
HUH?
BOTH HANDS PALMS UP!
?
swish
BADUM
HE WANTS TO HIT ME!

swish
snatch
ERIC FRUEH—
JUL!!
PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR SEAT! STUDENTS DO NOT DEFY THE AUTHORITY OF A TEACHER!
GO BACK TO YOUR SEAT—
TURN TO THE NEXT PAGE!
AH
YES
MY APOLOGIES FOR THIS, HERR BUSCH—

I WILL BE QUIET.
YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO HERR BUSCH! TAKE THE TIME TO THINK IT OVER!
YOU'RE INCORRIGIBLE, ERIC!
IS THAT THE REASON JULI STOPPED ME IN TIME?
BUT AT HOME I COULD'VE FIRED HIM!
I HAD NO IDEA THAT TURNING AROUND AND HITTING A TEACHER WAS SUCH A SERIOUS OFFENSE
I MIGHT BE WRONG ABOUT THE HEAD PREFECT THAT'S WHAT HIS DEFENDERS SEEM TO THINK
BUT... WHAT SHOULD I SAY? HOW DO I GO ABOUT IT?
BUT MAYBE HE REALLY IS A NICE LAD
IT'S TRUE THAT I DON'T LIKE HIM THAT MUCH
I KNOW! I'LL FIND HIM NOW AND OFFER AN APOLOGY

Nom
JULI?
.....
ERR
ARE YOU HURT?
IT'S NOTHING, REALLY I JUST NEED A DRINK
J-JUST THEN I

DANKE
WAS MY TIE UNDONE?
AH!
flinch
IN TIME, I'LL KILL YOU
REALLY, I WILL NEXT TIME I'LL MAKE SURE...
...YOU VANISH BEFORE ME FOR GOOD
twang

DASH
I'LL KILL YOU
NEXT TIME I'LL MAKE SURE YOU VANISH
HE'S CRAZY!
WHAT IS HE? WRINGING HIS NECK WON'T WORK! PHYSICAL FORCE WON'T BE ENOUGH!
IS THIS THE MODEL STUDENT AND HEAD PREFECT WHO LOOKS AFTER HIS FELLOW STUDENTS?
YOU TOLD ME THAT WAS WHY YOU DIED
YOU SAID YOU LOVED ME THOMAS
THE FIRST TIME I SAW THAT GAZE
IT WAS THE SAME LOOK HE GAVE ME IN THE CEMETERY
SO NOW YOU WANT ME TO TAKE THE BLAME FOR YOUR SUICIDE
NEVER! WHY MUST I CARRY THE BURDEN OF YOUR DEATH FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE?

I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.
SO THAT'S WHY I MUST ERADICATE THIS DOPPELGANGER OF YOU.
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING...
...THE NAME THOMAS WERNER KEPT CROPPING UP TIME AND TIME AGAIN WHEREVER I WENT
...THINGS HAVE BEEN WEIRD WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED AT THIS SCHOOL...
I'M SURE...
...THIS BOY WHO LOOKED SO MUCH LIKE ME?
...BUT I DON'T KNOW THE SLIGHTEST THING ABOUT HIM WHAT WAS HE LIKE...
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO LEARN FROM OTHERS
THOUGH I WAS OFTEN INVITED TO THE TEA PARTY...
WHAT IN THE WORLD COULD IT BE?
...THERE WAS SOMETHING GOING ON BETWEEN JULI AND THOMAS

BUT I'M JUST GOING TO THE TEA PARTY.
JUST FOR SATURDAY AFTERNOON, RIGHT? YOU'LL BE ABLE TO WALK AROUND THE TOWN!
ERIC! WERE YOU GIVEN LEAVE TO GO OUT?
Wah!
HELLO, ERIC FRUEHLING!
HEY! YOU MUSTN'T DISMISS THIS CHANCE TO LOOK AROUND!
I'VE COME TO PICK YOU UP, SO YOU BETTER BE QUICK.
gish
gish
A COUNTRY TOWN LIKE THAT DOESN'T INTEREST ME
I WONDER IF YOU'D PREFER TO GO ON A TRIP INTO TOWN WITH ME
clack
OH, NEVER MIND!
YOU'LL BE GIDDY WITH EXCITEMENT WHEN YOU MEET EVERYONE!
kachik

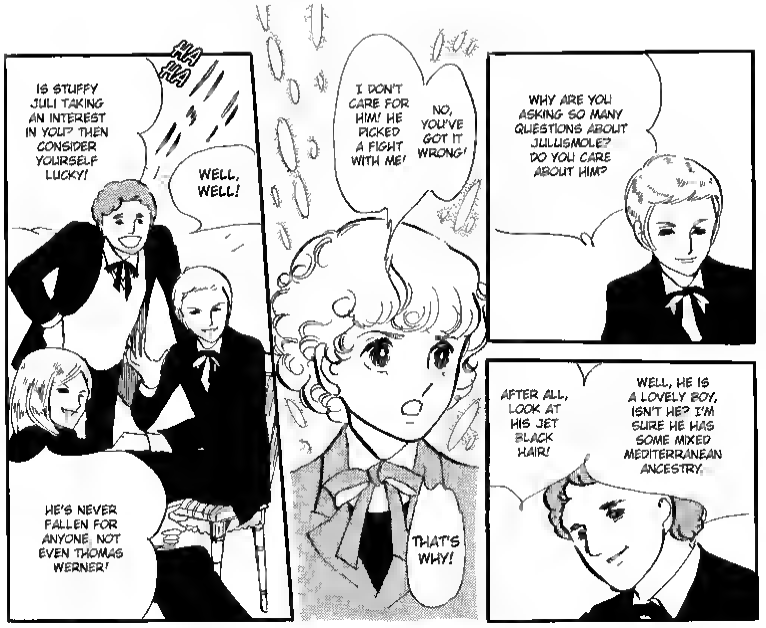
WELCOME, HONORED GUEST!
I'LL SORT THROUGH THEM AND....
THERE'S THIRTY TITLES HERE.
kachik
カチャッ
WHO'S THERE?

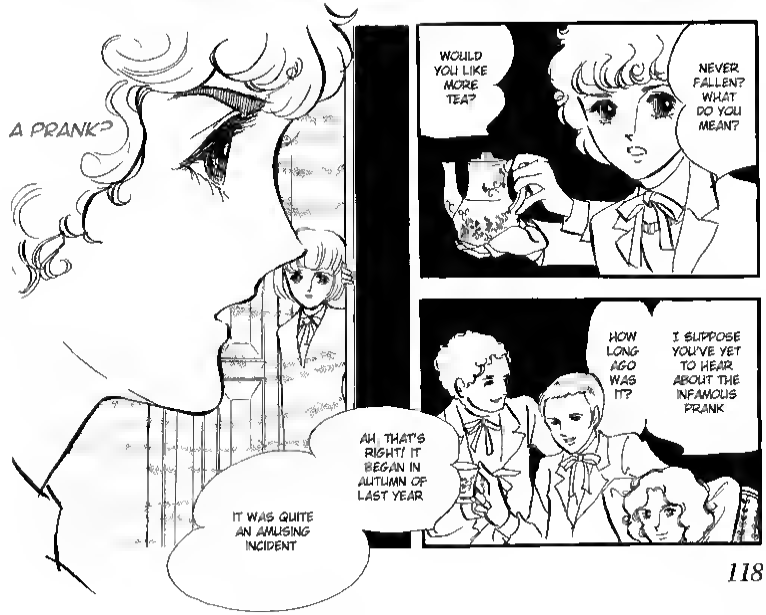
WHAT ABOUT THAT BOOK?
I'M ON LIBRARY DUTY RIGHT NOW, AND YOU DON'T HAVE PERMISSION TO
DOES THIS LIBRARY BELONG TO YOU?
HEY, YOU THINK I'M A THIEF?
STRICTLY PROHIBITED, I KNOW. WE WEREN'T DOING ANYTHING. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE? ENTRY TO THE LIBRARY ON WEEKENDS IS——
IT'S JOSE A THIRD-YEAR SENIOR THE BOY WITH HIM IS IN THE YEAR BELOW ME
SLAP
DON'T ORDER ME ABOUT, TEACHER'S PET!

NO IT'S NOTHING
IT WAS NOTHING, NOTHING AT ALL EXCUSE ME FOR COMING IN HERE WITHOUT PERMISSION, JULLISMOLE.
WHY WERE YOU MEETING HIM HERE, LUDWIG?
HM?
WHAT'S WRONG?
SORRY, I'M LATE
IT'S NOTHING
IT'S NOTHING
IT'S NOTHING
HOW ABOUT SOME MILK?
...BY MAKING ALL KINDS OF ARRANGEMENTS AND COMPROMISES.
WE LIVE EACH DAY AS IT COMES
DURING OUR LIFETIME

DIFFERENT MEN SEEM TO COME AND GO
SO AT HOME IT'S JUST YOU AND YOUR MOTHER, IS IT?
ON THE BANK OF THE RHEIN RIVER, RIGHT?
YOU'RE FROM KOELN? THAT'S A NICE TOWN!
AHH!
UM... SO YOU...
AH... WELL... THAT MUST MEAN YOUR MOTHER IS A VERY WELL-LIKED FIGURE IN SOCIETY
MOST OF THE TIME
OOPS!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
IS THAT WHY YOU WENT TO BOARDING SCHOOL? SO YOUR MOTHER COULD HAVE MORE PRIVACY WITH HER LATEST LOVER?
glare
EXCUSE ME, [illegible] CURLS ARE SO PRETTY.
WELL, HOW ABOUT SOME SUGAR?
THIS LE BEBE CAN HOLD HIS OWN AGAINST US!
HE'S RATHER GOOD AT THROWING HIS WEIGHT AROUND!
heh heh
OUR LITTLE FRIEND IS TOO FEISTY.

FOR THIS WEEK, IT CAME DOWN TO YOURSELF AND ANOTHER BOY WHO WAS WELL-BEHAVED. THAT'S HOW WE DETERMINE WHOM TO INVITE.
TYPICALLY STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO THE TEA PARTY AS A REWARD FOR THEIR GOOD WORK.
HE WAS, FROM THE FIRST WEEK HE STARTED AT THIS SCHOOL.
I HEARD THOMAS WERNER WAS A REGULAR GUEST AT YOUR TEA PARTY. IS THAT TRUE?
YES, THAT'S HOW WE CHOSE YOU THIS WEEK.
WHEN NO ONE SUITABLE COULD BE FOUND, WE ALWAYS WENT BACK TO INVITING THOMAS.
HE REALLY WAS A SWEET BOY.
"THEY ALL WANT SOMEONE TO IDOLIZE."
"THAT RABBLE SEEM TO LIKE YOU."
WAS JULI ON BAD TERMS WITH THOMAS?
IS THAT THE REASON HE'S NEVER COME TO YOUR TEA PARTY?
WHEN WE MADE OUR DECISION, HE WAS ALREADY PROVING HIMSELF TO BE FAR TOO STUFFY AND DULL.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M AFRAID HE'S TOO BUSY SORTING BOOKS ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON.
NO. NOT HIM! DURING HIS WHOLE TIME AT THIS SCHOOL, HE'S FAILED TO MAKE MUCH OF AN IMPRESSION ON US.
THEN WHAT ABOUT SOMEONE LIKE JULIUSMOLE WHO ALWAYS UPHOLDS THE SCHOOL RULES?


HA HA HA
IS STUFFY JULI TAKING AN INTEREST IN YOU? THEN CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY!
WELL, WELL!
HE'S NEVER FALLEN FOR ANYONE, NOT EVEN THOMAS WERNER!
I DON'T CARE FOR HIM! HE PICKED A FIGHT WITH ME!
NO, YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG!
THAT'S WHY!
WHY ARE YOU ASKING SO MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT JULLISMOLE? DO YOU CARE ABOUT HIM?
AFTER ALL, LOOK AT HIS JET BLACK HAIR!
WELL, HE IS A LOVELY BOY, ISN'T HE? I'M SURE HE HAS SOME MIXED MEDITERRANEAN ANCESTRY.


A PRANK?
WOULD YOU LIKE MORE TEA?
NEVER FALLEN? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HOW LONG AGO WAS IT?
I SUPPOSE YOU'VE YET TO HEAR ABOUT THE INFAMOUS PRANK
AH, THAT'S RIGHT! IT BEGAN IN AUTUMN OF LAST YEAR
IT WAS QUITE AN AMUSING INCIDENT

ONE DAY THOMAS MADE A WAGER WITH HIS FRIEND ANTE
ANTE?
HE WANTED TO SET UP AN AUDACIOUS CONFRONTATION
...TO CAPTURE THE HEART OF THE IRREPROACHABLE JULIUSMOLE!
SO THOMAS WAS REJECTED NOW WHAT WERE THE WORDS THAT JULI USED?
THE DETAILS OF THE BET WERE LEAKED
THINGS WENT WRONG
BUT JULI WASN'T TAKEN IN.
"I'D NEVER WANT TO KNOW SOMEONE LIKE YOU."
JULI SAID THIS TO THOMAS IN FRONT OF AN ENTIRE CLASS FULL OF STUDENTS.
THOMAS DIDN'T UTTER A SINGLE WORD IN HIS OWN DEFENSE...
HONESTLY, NOT ONE WORD

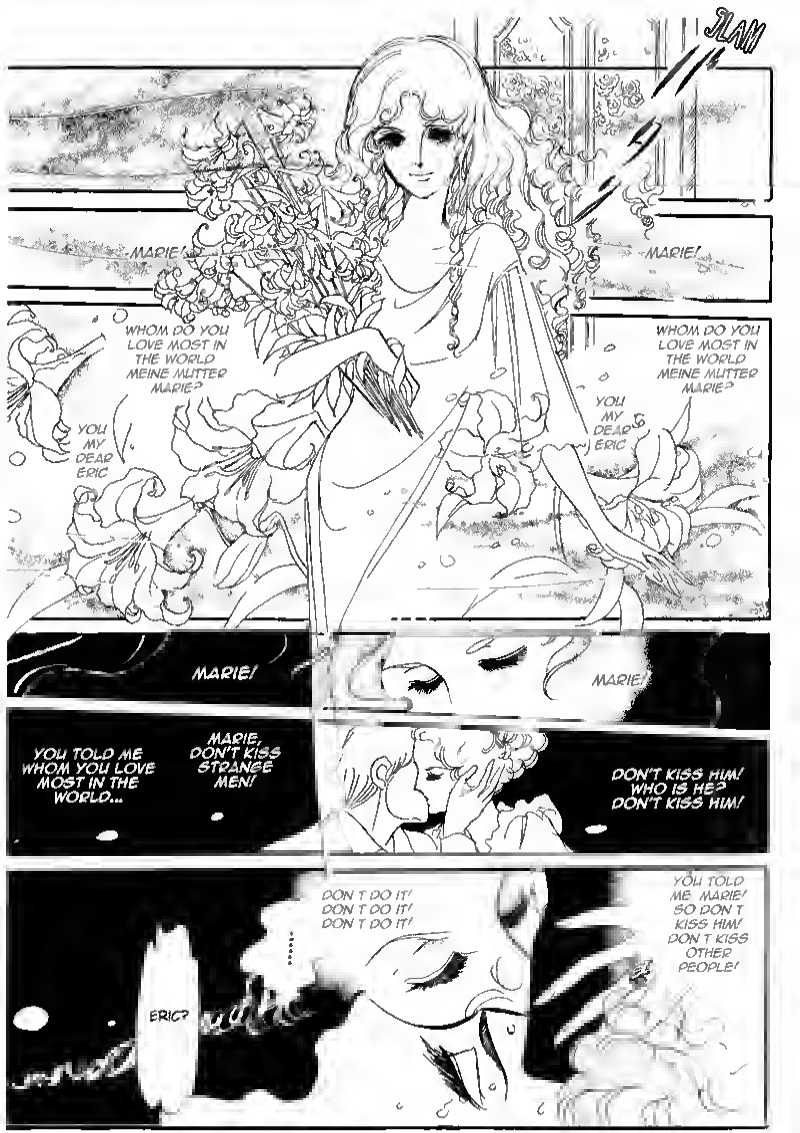
YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE HIM IN CHARACTER, BUT THAT'S NOT TO SAY YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR OWN CHARMS!
WHAT THEN? WHY, NOTHING IMPORTANT! WE DID OUR BEST TO COMFORT POOR THOMAS!
WHAT THEN?
WHAT A HEARTLESS REPLY
SLAP
!!
IT'S RUDE TO PUSH AWAY A PARTNER. I SUGGEST THAT YOU RELAX AND BE A GOOD BOY FOR US
OH! HE TURNS BRIGHT RED FROM A SINGLE KISS! HE'S MOST ASSERTIVE FOR A CALLOW YOUTH!
HE HAS THE FACE OF A BOY WHO'S ONLY BEEN KISSED BY HIS MAMA!
chuckle
DON'T GO NEAR MY FACE! YOU'LL MAKE ME DIRTY!
WHA
YOU'RE IN NEED OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE LE BEBE!
Yank
WHAT DID I DO WRONG?
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?

YOU FOOL! STOP SUCH SILLY BEHAVIOR! HE'S OUR GUEST!
A DIRTY FACE IS THE PRICE YOU PAY FOR EXPERIENCING THE PASSION OF NEW LOVE! YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE WITHOUT IT FROM NOW ON!
CHARLES!
ERIC?
DON'T... TOUCH ME...
ERIC!!

QUICKLY SUMMON THE HEAD PREFECT FROM THE LIBRARY, CHARLES! YOU COULD BE EXPELLED FOR CAUSING THIS!
gulp
ERIC!
HEY WE BETTER NOT MOVE HIM!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
DON'T MOVE HIS HEAD. GENTLY CARRY HIM TO THE SOFA
HOW'S HIS PULSE?
TWICE AS FAST AS NORMAL!
shame shame
JULIUSMOLE!
WHOW
ERIC HAS WHAT?

THE SECOND FLOOR WING OF JAKOB HALL, WHERE WE HOLD OUR TEA PARTY.
clatter
WHERE IS HE?
flip
I-I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY! ANYWAY, HE...
HE FAINTED?
OH NO... THAT ROOM!
JAKOB HALL, THE SECOND FLOOR WING!
JILLIG-MOLE?
wham
THERE'S NO NEED TO CREATE A BIG FUSS OVER THIS
OSCAR? WHAT FOR? IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR YOU TO COME UP THERE!
WHERE'S OSCAR?

HEY JULI! FOR TONIGHT'S DINNER... WHAT'S GOING ON?
ERIC HAS FAINTED HE'S ON THE SECOND FLOOR WING OF JAKOB HALL. DO YOU MIND GOING OVER THERE FOR ME?
WHO FAINTED? ERIC?
WHAT ON EARTH DID YOU FELLOWS—
OH NO!
AHH, SURE I'LL GO!
PLUS I STILL HAVE A STANDING INVITATION TO THE TEA PARTY FROM BACCHUS!
BY THE WAY, MAKE SURE YOU GO TO THE DINING HALL. I THINK YOU'RE ON DINNER DUTY
Slam!
WAS IT THE SECOND FLOOR WING OF JAKOB HALL?
thud thud
AHA! THE ROOM OF EVIL!
whatna
EVEN FOR JULI...
I GUESS EVEN FOR JULI CONSCIOUSLY ENTERING THAT ROOM A SECOND TIME WAS TOO DAUNTING A TASK

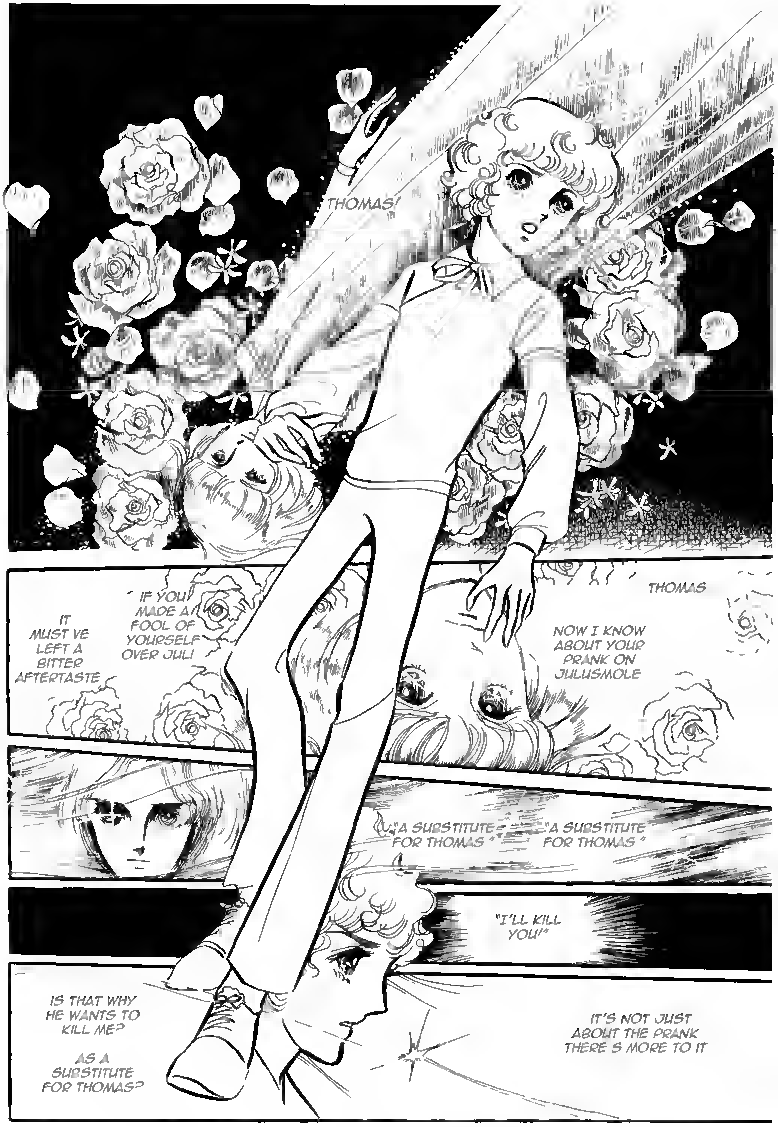

MARIE!
WHOM DO YOU LOVE MOST IN THE WORLD MEINE MUTTER MARIE?
YOU MY DEAR ERIC
MARIE!
WHOM DO YOU LOVE MOST IN THE WORLD MEINE MUTTER MARIE?
YOU MY DEAR ERIC
MARIE!
MARIE!
YOU TOLD ME WHOM YOU LOVE MOST IN THE WORLD...
MARIE, DON'T KISS STRANGE MEN!
DON'T KISS HIM! WHO IS HE? DON'T KISS HIM!
ERIC?
DON T DO IT! DON T DO IT! DON T DO IT!
YOU TOLD ME, MARIE! SO DON T KISS HIM! DON T KISS OTHER PEOPLE!

THERE NOW NOW ARE YOU FEELING?
DON'T DO IT
ERIC FRUEHLING I TRULY FEEL
I'M GOING BACK!
YOU'RE WELCOME HERE ANY TIME
WE WON'T BE SO DISCOURTEOUS NEXT TIME SO PLEASE DO CONSIDER COMING AGAIN
THAT OUR CONDUCT TOWARDS YOU HAS BEEN REPREHENSIBLE.
You scoundrels are mean!

YOU'RE STILL NOT SAYING MUCH, HUH? FOR A KID WHO'S MORE USED TO PLAY-GROUND GAMES, IT'S A BIG SHOCK.
WERE YOU UPSET BY THEIR KISSES?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ERIC?
hiccup
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
THERE'S BEEN NO LETTER...
MARIE? WHY ARE YOU CRYING, MARIE?
I WON'T MARIE!
BUT YOU'LL LEAVE ME WHEN YOU GROW UP
I WON'T! I WON'T!
BECAUSE YOU SEE, SOME DAY YOU'LL LEAVE ME FOR GOOD AS WELL
I KEEP WAITING... B-BUT...
MARIE HASN'T SENT ME A LETTER...
BUT THE TRUTH ABOUT MY FATHER IS THAT HE DOESN'T LIVE NEARBY...
F-FIVE YEARS? THAT LONG?
AND JUST HOW MANY DAYS HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU ARRIVED HERE? IN MY CASE, I HAVEN'T RECEIVED A SINGLE LETTER FROM MY FATHER FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS!

BUT IS HE TRULY YOUR FATHER?
STOP THINKING THAT EVERYONE IS AS SPOILT AS YOU, LE BEBE!
DON'T YOU FEEL LONELY?
HE'S BEEN THE ONLY FATHER I'VE EVER KNOWN
I'LL STILL LOVE HIM THROUGH THICK AND THIN, LE BEBE
LE BEBE...
COULD YOUR FATHER BE DEAD?
MOST LIKELY, HUH?
.....

I SEE
THANKS FOR CHECK-ING ON HIM.
SEEMS THAT ERIC WAS SUFFERING FROM A MINOR BOUT OF ANEMIA
clink
BUT I'M CONCERNED ABOUT HIM.
HOW COULD HE FAINT FROM A MERE KISS?
ARE YOU WELL NOW?
DID YOU FAINT AT THE TEA PARTY? YOU'RE NOT FEELING SICK, ARE YOU?
DID OSCAR GO OVER THERE IN PERSON TO BRING YOU BACK?
REALLY? DID OSCAR DO THAT? THAT'S NICE OF HIM!
HEY! DON'T STAND IN THE DOORWAY BLOCKING MY WAY!
WHATEVER HAPPENED COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THAT BAD COULD IT ERIC?
BACCHUS EVEN TOLD ERIC HE COULD COME AGAIN ANYTIME!
PLEASE GO FIRST, ANTE. YOU MUST BE FEELING LEFT OUT BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T INVITED TO THE TEA PARTY
WHAT, HIM? HOW COULD THE OLDER STUDENTS THINK HE'S A NICE BOY? HE'S SIMPLY A SUBSTITUTE FOR THOMAS!
NO WAY!


THOMAS!
THOMAS
IT MUST'VE LEFT A BITTER AFTERTASTE
"IF YOU MADE A FOOL OF YOURSELF OVER JULI
NOW I KNOW ABOUT YOUR PRANK ON JULIUSMOLE
"A SUBSTITUTE FOR THOMAS"
"A SUBSTITUTE FOR THOMAS"
"I'LL KILL YOU!"
IS THAT WHY HE WANTS TO KILL ME?
AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THOMAS?
IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE PRANK THERE'S MORE TO IT

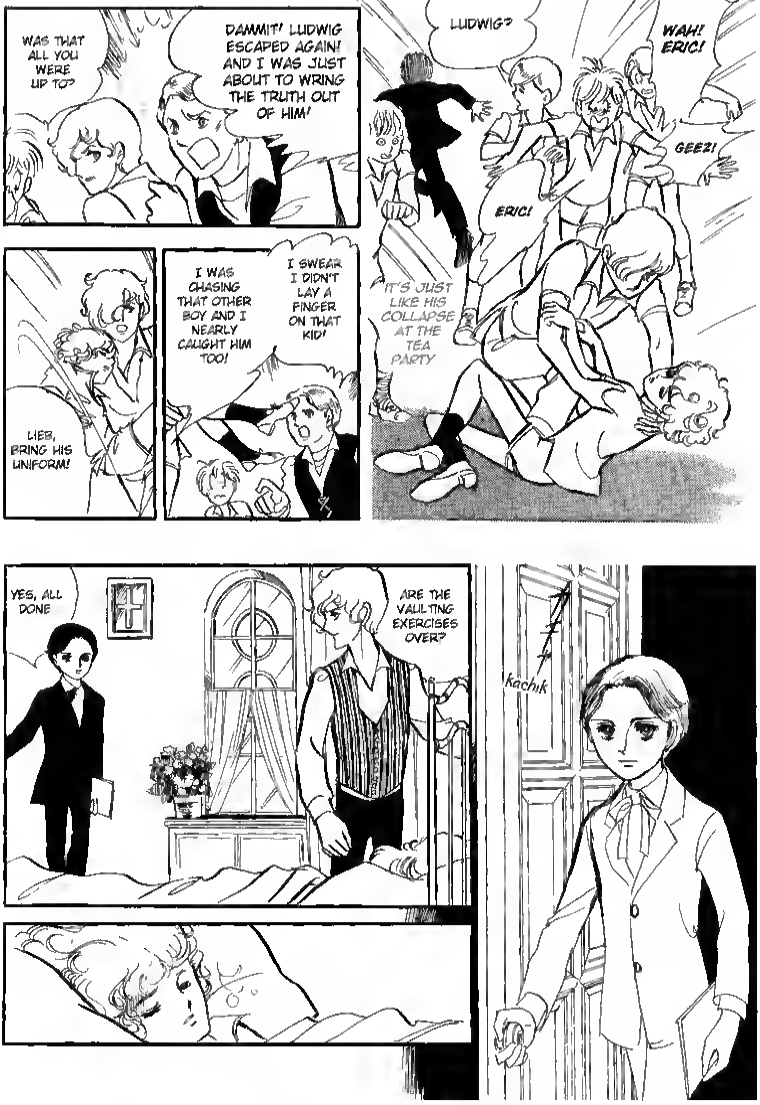
CRASH
YOU FAILED THE LANDING, ADAM. DO IT AGAIN LATER
WAH!
OW!
NEXT!
THAT HURT!
FOOL! YOU'LL BE THE WORST IN THE CLASS IF YOU VAULT WITH YOUR GLASSES ON!
THEY'RE LOOSE!
SLAM!
HUH?
gulp
thump

UH HUH...
WHAT FOR?
SO HOW DOES IT FEEL TO COME FIRST IN THE CLASS? GREAT, RIGHT? I WAS WORRYING FOR NOTHING...
clap clap
PERFECT, ERIC! YOU'RE THE KING OF THE GYM VAULT!
ERIC HAS PASSED. YOU'RE NEXT, ALOIS!
WELL, YOU FAINTED BEFORE... AND I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE A BAD HEART OR SOMETHING...
!
WHEN YOU'VE DONE A PASSABLE VAULT, YOU CAN GO BACK TO THE PRIVATE STUDY ROOM AND DO TODAY'S ASSIGNMENTS
GO ON! YOU CAN'T VAULT WELL SO YOU CAN PRACTICE THERE!
HOW CAN YOU KEEP YOUR COLLAR BUTTONED UP, JULIUSMOLE? DON'T YOU FEEL HOT AND SWEATY?
.....
バシン! slap
YOUR TURN, AL! COME ON, GET MOVING!
BESIDES, YOU ALL EXPOSE YOUR NECKS BECAUSE IT'S THE LATEST FASHION...
I'M JUST STANDING HERE SUPERVISING YOU ALL...

I HAVEN T HAD THOSE FAINTING FITS LATELY!
A BAD HEART? BUT I OON T HAVE A BAD HEART!
YOU KEEP THINKING THE WORST OF ME OSCAR
kachik
HOLD IT! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE FROM ME THIS TIME! YOU'VE BEEN CAUGHT IN THE ACT!
SO YOU'VE SEEN HIM TOO, NEW BOY!
crash
wham
?
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

NO, DON'T!
Grab
Smash
I SAW WHAT YOU WERE UP TO! SHOW ME YOUR HAND!
NOTHING?
I, I DID NOTHING...
CAUGHT IN THE ACT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HIM? YOU'RE TOO ROUGH!
clink
AND I'M SURE THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM. RIGHT, LUDWIG?
I-I DON'T KNOW!
HE TOOK IT FROM UNDER YOUR VERY NOSE THAT'S YOUR PEN, ISN'T IT?

LET HIM GO
HE TOLD YOU HE DOESN'T KNOW...
LET HIM GO
I'M SURE YOU'VE STASHED AWAY MORE THAN FOUR WATCHES! AT LEAST TELL ME WHERE THEY ARE!
TELL ME NOW! OUT WITH IT!
WHAT? DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T KNOW!
Garweh
ARGH! DON'T
I DON'T KNOW, JOSE!
WHY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH, JOSE! WHAT BUSINESS DOES A THIRD YEAR SENIOR LIKE YOU HAVE IN THE FIRST YEAR LOCKER ROOM?
flop
HEY, HAVEN'T YOU CHANGED INTO YOUR UNIFORM YET?
thud thud
ERIC!

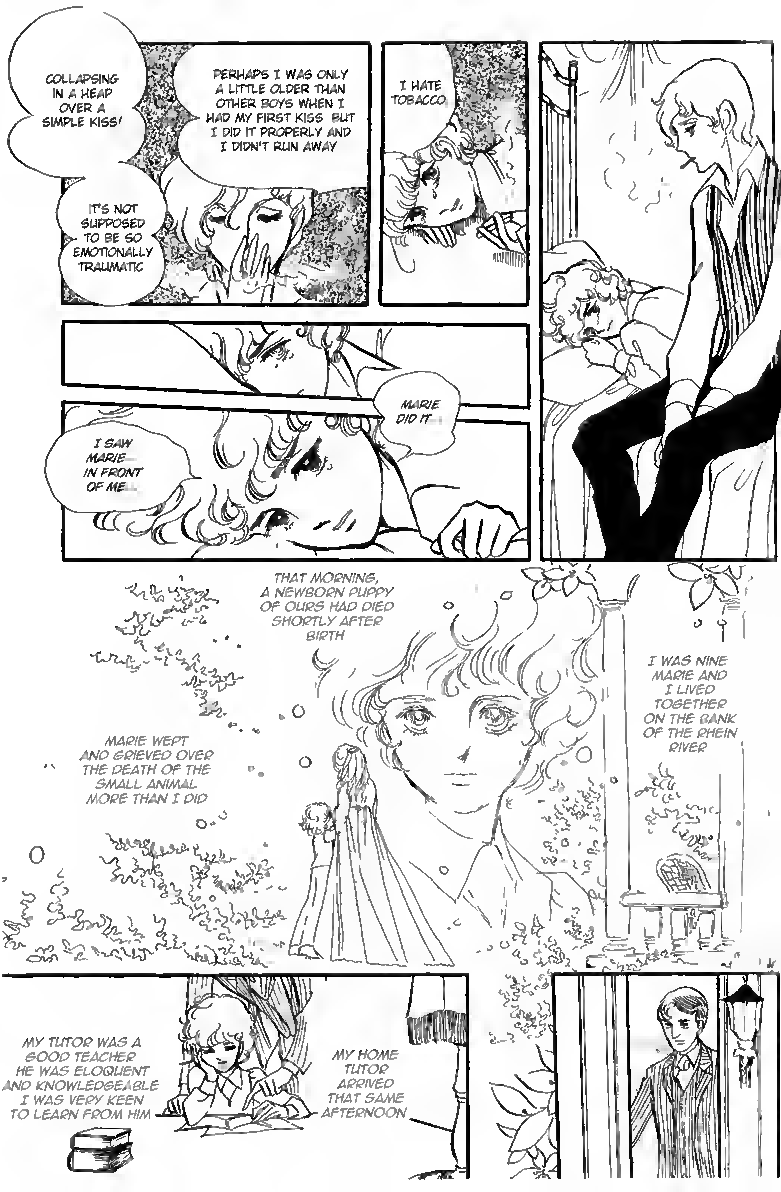

WAS THAT ALL YOU WERE UP TO?
DAMMIT! LUDWIG ESCAPED AGAIN! AND I WAS JUST ABOUT TO WRING THE TRUTH OUT OF HIM!
LUDWIG?
WAH! ERIC!
GEEZ!
ERIC!
IT'S JUST LIKE HIS COLLAPSE AT THE TEA PARTY
LIES, BRING HIS UNIFORM!
I WAS CHASING THAT OTHER BOY AND I NEARLY CAUGHT HIM TOO!
I SWEAR I DIDN'T LAY A FINGER ON THAT KID!
YES, ALL DONE
ARE THE VAULTING EXERCISES OVER?
kachik

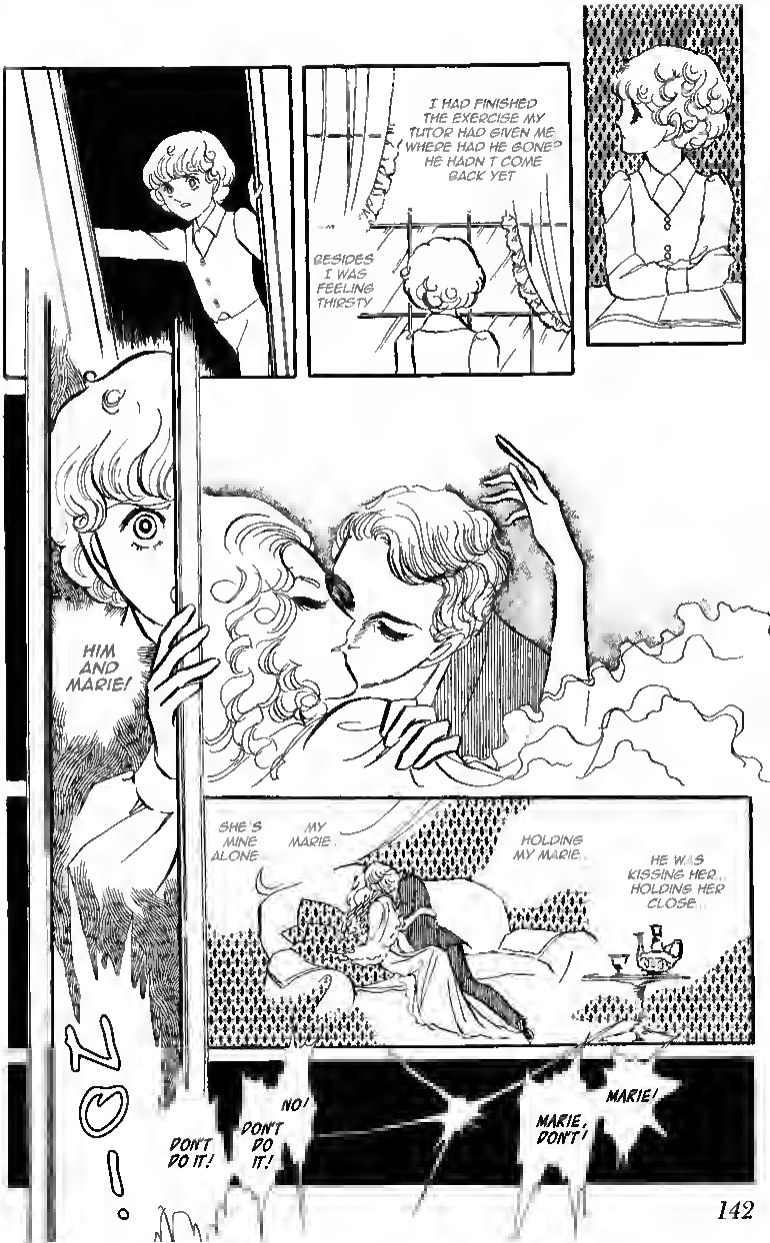
I'LL WATCH OVER HIM
I HAVE TO SUPERVISE THE PRIVATE STUDY ROOM SO I CAN'T STAY HERE
ERIC?
A NEUROSIS?
IF THESE ATTACKS OCCUR MORE FREQUENTLY HE'LL NEED TO BE EXAMINED AT A SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL
NO, THAT'S NOT IT
IS HE STILL ANEMIC?
THEN I'LL LEAVE HIM WITH YOU.
THIS LAD APPEARS TO SUFFER FROM A TYPE OF NEUROSIS IN OTHER WORDS A MINOR CASE OF HYSTERIA
WHAT DO YOU MEAN HERR ARZT?
ISN'T HE LUCKY TO BE WITH OSCAR!
HE'S QUITE PHYSICALLY WEAK FOR A STRONG-WILLED BOY, ISN'T HE?
RETURN TO YOUR SEATS!
OSCAR IS WITH HIM.
HE'S ANEMIC IT WAS A HOT DAY TODAY, AND HE FELT FAINT AFTER COMPLETING HIS VAULT
HOW IS ERIC?
HEAD PREFECT JULI!
HOW DID HE COME DOWN WITH THIS?
A NEUROSIS... IN OTHER WORDS AN ILLNESS OF THE MIND

JULUS--
MOLE,
I LOVE
YOU
JULUS--
MOLE,
I LOVE
YOU

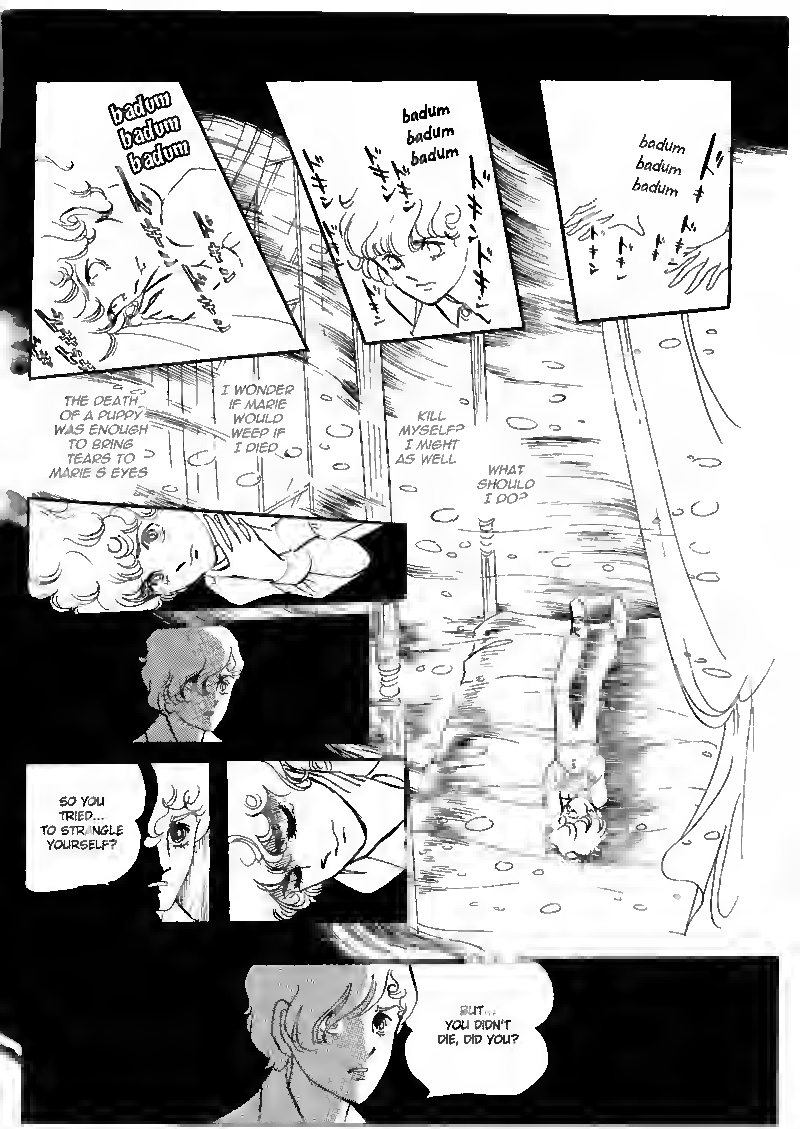
LUDWIG WAS THE ONE BEING STRANGLED BY JOSE...
WHAT ON EARTH WERE YOU THINKING?
YOU'RE AN ODD BOY.
NOT YOU, SILLY!
BUT I WITNESSED THAT AWFUL SCENE...
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT LUDWIG? THEFT IS HIS HOBBY.
HH... IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR DINNER. DID YOU SLEEP WELL, ERIC?
WHERE AM I?
THE SCHOOL INFIRMARY!
THERE'S SEVERAL STUDENTS LIKE THAT HERE.
UMM... THAT YOUNGER STUDENT... WHY DOES HE STEAL?
I SUPPOSE YOU CAN GET UP. IF YOU HURRY, YOU'LL BE IN TIME FOR THE SOUP.
IN THIS SCHOOL, THERE IS NOTHING THAT DOESN'T REACH MY EARS.
HERE, WEAR THIS.
ERIC?
I JUST WANTED TO DO UP YOUR TOP BUTTON...
SLAP
.....!

DID A LETTER ARRIVE FROM YOUR BELOVED MARIE, LE BEBE?
DO YOU NOW DISLIKE BEING KISSED BY HER?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
EXCUSE ME FOR ASKING
WHAT IS THIS? LET ME GO!
COME ON, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
thunk
whing!
I-I'M NOT ILL! I WISH TO BE LEFT ALONE WITHOUT BEING BOTHERED BY PEOPLE LIKE YOU...
SHE'S THE CAUSE OF YOUR ILLNESS, ISN'T SHE?
I'VE HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD, HAVEN'T I?
flick
WANT ONE?

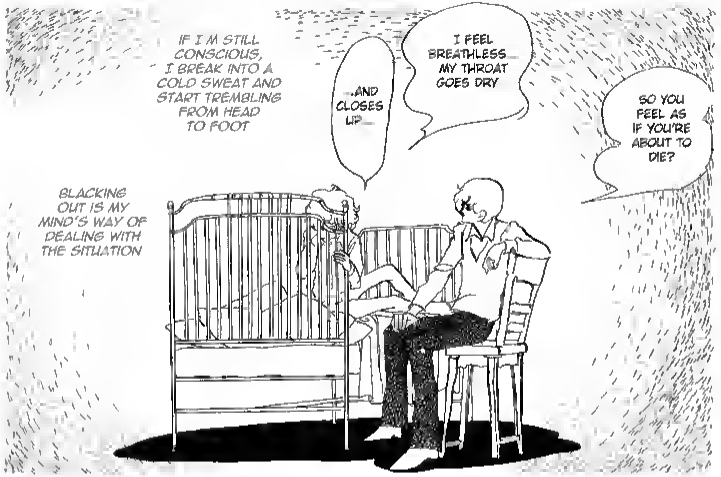

COLLAPSING IN A HEAP OVER A SIMPLE KISS!
PERHAPS I WAS ONLY A LITTLE OLDER THAN OTHER BOYS WHEN I HAD MY FIRST KISS BUT I DID IT PROPERLY AND I DIDN'T RUN AWAY
IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE SO EMOTIONALLY TRAUMATIC
I HATE TOBACCO
I SAW MARIE IN FRONT OF ME...
MARIE DID IT
THAT MORNING, A NEWBORN PUPPY OF OURS HAD DIED SHORTLY AFTER BIRTH
MARIE WEPT AND GRIEVED OVER THE DEATH OF THE SMALL ANIMAL MORE THAN I DID
I WAS NINE MARIE AND I LIVED TOGETHER ON THE BANK OF THE RHEIN RIVER
MY TUTOR WAS A GOOD TEACHER HE WAS ELOQUENT AND KNOWLEDGEABLE I WAS VERY KEEN TO LEARN FROM HIM
MY HOME TUTOR ARRIVED THAT SAME AFTERNOON

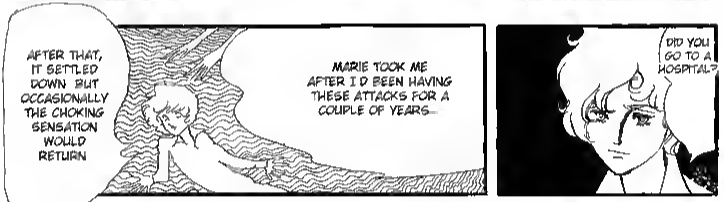

I HAD FINISHED THE EXERCISE MY TUTOR HAD GIVEN ME. WHERE HAD HE GONE? HE HADN'T COME BACK YET
BESIDES, I WAS FEELING THIRSTY
HIM AND MARIE!
SHE'S MINE ALONE
MY MARIE
HOLDING MY MARIE
HE WAS KISSING HER... HOLDING HER CLOSE...
NO!
DON'T DO IT!
DON'T DO IT!
MARIE, DON'T!
MARIE!

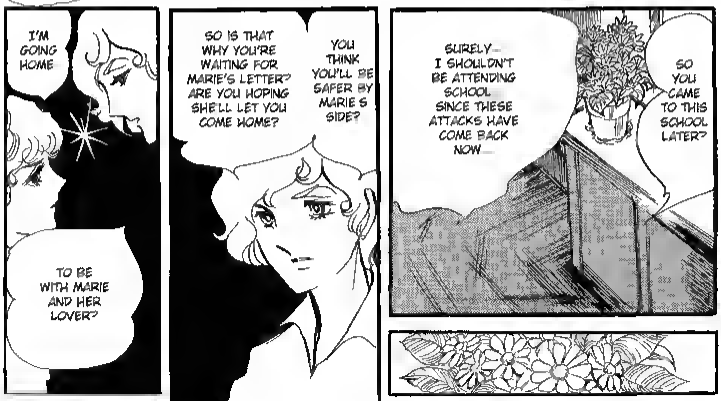
BUT YOU TOLD ME YOU LOVED ME...
MARIE!
YOU SAID I WAS THE ONE YOU LOVED MOST IN THE WORLD!
ARGH! MARIE!
YOU BETRAYED ME!
YOU BETRAYED ME!


badum badum badum
badum badum badum
badum badum badum
THE DEATH OF A PUPPY WAS ENOUGH TO BRING TEARS TO MARIE'S EYES
I WONDER IF MARIE WOULD WEEP IF I DIED
KILL MYSELF? I MIGHT AS WELL
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SO YOU TRIED... TO STRANGLE YOURSELF?
BUT... YOU DIDN'T DIE, DID YOU?

I WAS CERTAIN I'D BE ABLE TO KILL MYSELF.
AT THE VERY LEAST, I HAD TO MAKE MYSELF DEEPLY UNCONSCIOUS.
WHAT ABOUT MARIE?
THE CURTAINS NEAR MY BED WERE FLUTTERING THEY LOOKED AS IF THEY'D BEEN TORN...
BUT WHEN I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS, MY HANDS EASED THEIR GRIP BY THE TIME I OPENED MY EYES, IT WAS ALREADY THE START OF A NEW DAY
BUT FROM THAT DAY ON... WHENEVER THE MEMORIES OF THAT INCIDENT COME FLOODING BACK...
MARIE HAD NO IDEA
ONCE AGAIN I FEEL AS IF I'M SUFFOCATING AND ABOUT TO DIE...


IF I'M STILL CONSCIOUS, I BREAK INTO A COLD SWEAT AND START TREMBLING FROM HEAD TO FOOT
I FEEL BREATHLESS— MY THROAT GOES DRY
...AND CLOSES UP—
SO YOU FEEL AS IF YOU'RE ABOUT TO DIE?
BLACKING OUT IS MY MIND'S WAY OF DEALING WITH THE SITUATION


AFTER THAT, IT SETTLED DOWN BUT OCCASIONALLY THE CHOKING SENSATION WOULD RETURN
MARIE TOOK ME AFTER I'D BEEN HAVING THESE ATTACKS FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS—
DID YOU GO TO A HOSPITAL?


I'M GOING HOME
TO BE WITH MARIE AND HER LOVER?
SO IS THAT WHY YOU'RE WAITING FOR MARIE'S LETTER? ARE YOU HOPING SHE'LL LET YOU COME HOME?
YOU THINK YOU'LL BE SAFER BY MARIE'S SIDE?
SURELY— I SHOULDN'T BE ATTENDING SCHOOL SINCE THESE ATTACKS HAVE COME BACK NOW—
SO YOU CAME TO THIS SCHOOL LATER?

SHE'D BEG ME FOR FORGIVENESS. THEN BRING A NEW MAN HOME THE NEXT DAY...
EVERY TIME! EVERY SINGLE TIME! SHE BRINGS STRANGE MEN HOME! SHE MAKES LOVERS OUT OF THEM ALL!
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS EACH AND EVERY TIME!
SHE'LL SOON TIRE OF HIM!
NO! IT WON'T LAST!
NO, SHE WON'T! MARIE'S THERE WAITING FOR ME...
ONE DAY YOU TOO WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH A SWEET GIRL OF YOUR OWN. MARIE ALREADY HAS COMPANY AT HOME...
WHY NOT LEAVE HER BE?
OSCAR!
THAT'LL FIX YOUR BIZARRE ATTACKS FOR SURE!
I'VE GOT AN IDEA! WE'LL GO OUT NEXT SATURDAY!
I'LL GET PERMISSION FOR US TO VISIT THE LOCAL TOWN FOR A GIRL HUNT!
LE BEBE?
THEN WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT YEAR? AND THE YEAR AFTER THAT? HOW ABOUT A DECADE FROM NOW...
YOU'LL TRULY BE A BABY FOREVER, AND I'LL FEEL SORRY FOR POOR MARIE.
IF YOU DON'T LEARN TO BE INDEPENDENT, YOU'LL BE STUCK IN THIS VICIOUS CYCLE. YOU'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND THAT.

rustle
WELL, A GIRL HUNT DOES SOUND LIKE A GOOD IDEA.
rustle
TO ENSURE ANOTHER ATTACK IS AVOIDED!
WEAR A RAINCOAT OVER YOUR BLOUSE. HAVEN'T YOU GOT A COAT?
WAIT, I'LL BORROW ONE FOR YOU
SO THAT'S HOW OSCAR ARRANGED FOR THE TWO OF US TO GO OUT NEXT SATURDAY
BUT MUST WE GO AFTER GIRLS? I'M NOT THAT INTERESTED IN THEM..
SURE BUT ISN'T IT TOO SMALL FOR YOU?
CAN I BORROW THIS?
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO WEAR A CAPE YOU MUST PUT ON THE SCHLOTTERBETZ COAT
EVEN ON OUTINGS, THERE'S A SCHOOL RULE ABOUT BRINGING RAINCOATS

Slap
UH HUH
I'LL BE BACK WITH OUR LEAVE PASSES
HERE!
SEE YOU AT THE GATE!
UH HUH
I THINK HE'S CARRYING AROUND A BIT OF AN OEDIPUS COMPLEX!
IT'S FOR ERIC, NOT ME
clack
JULUS MOLE IS THIS JULI'S?
Julius mole
SO HE OFTEN LENDS HIS THINGS HUH?
THE COAT MAKES US ALL LOOK THE SAME AS EACH OTHER BUT I DON'T HAVE ONE OF MY OWN

JULI!
JULI!
.....
YES WITH OSCAR
ARE YOU GOING OUT?
WHEN-EVER
WHEN WILL YOU KILL ME?
YOU TOLD ME BEFORE THAT YOU'D KILL ME. RIGHT?
MURDER!
REALLY? BUT IF YOU CARRY OUT YOUR PLAN, THEN YOU'LL BE COMMITTING MURDER!

HE DIDN'T EVEN LIFT AN EYEBROW! HE SIMPLY TOOK IT IN HIS STRIDE!
HE REPLIED SO EASILY... AS IF HE WERE READING LINES FROM THE SCRIPT OF SOME PLAY
ERIC!
I KNOW.
ERIC, YOUR LEAVE PASS!
WHAT ABOUT THOMAS WERNER? WAS HE KILLED BY JULI TOO?
OUR CURFEW IS SIX P.M. WHAT'S WRONG? COME ON, LET'S GO!
OH...
UH HUH.

FAR FROM THE BUSTLING CITIES THERE ARE VINEYARDS AND OATFIELDS. HEIDELBERG IS TO THE NORTH, KARLSRUHE TO THE SOUTH.
TOURISTS FLOCK HERE LURED BY ITS SCENIC BEAUTY
ATOP THAT HILL IS THE CRUMBLING RUINS OF A CASTLE BUILT BY THE ROMANS
IT'S THE ONLY YOUTH HOSTEL.
YOUTH HOSTEL ?
NORDBADEN!
I FIND THIS PART OF WEST DEUTSCHLAND TO BE A VERY PICTURESQUE REGION.
MARIE IS FOND OF THE LAKE REGIONS WE'VE VISITED ALL OF THE ONES IN NORTHERN EUROPE.
I HAVE
INEXPENSIVE LODGINGS FOR SIGHTSEERS HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ON A SIGHTSEEING TRIP? THEY'RE GREAT FUN!
YOU'RE THE SON OF A RICH MAN, ALL RIGHT?
.....
THERE'S OSCAR FROM SCHLOTTER-BETZ!
KYAA!
LOOK, LOOK! WHAT AN INCREDIBLY CUTE BOY!
OSCAR! I WONDER HOW MANY WEEKS IT'S BEEN SINCE THE LAST SATURDAY WE SAW HIM!
THE LANDS ALONG THE RHEIN RIVER HAVE A RICH HISTORY

WHAT'S THE MATTER? SAY HELLO TO THEM!
THEY'RE GIRLS FROM THE LOCAL BUSINESS SCHOOL. I RUN INTO THEM NOW AND THEN
HI!
HI!
HELLO
HELLO!
PFFT
KYAA!
tee hee tee hee
HIYA!
Um...
Err...
Err...
YOU ARE SUCH A
THEY'RE BEING RUDE TO ME!
DAS CAFÉ
I FORGOT TO BRING MONEY
NOW WHAT
DO YOU LIKE SWEETS?
HERE'S A CAFE. THERE'S FOUR OF THEM IN THIS TOWN
GOOD GRIEF! WELL, NEVER MIND IT'S ONLY YOUR FIRST TIME

TWO OF JOHANNA SPRITZ'S PIES!
Here you go!
WELL — YOU'VE LOST YOUR FATHER JUST LIKE ME DO YOU HAVE A LAWYER LOOKING AFTER YOUR FINANCES?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SO DO YOU HAVE YOUR OWN FORTUNE?
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE? THE PIES HERE ARE DELICIOUS
IT'LL BE MY TREAT BECAUSE I INVITED YOU OUT
creak
NOT NOW, NOT EVER! I DEPEND ON AN INTEREST-FREE LOAN PROVIDED BY HEADMASTER MUELLER!
I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE PENNY TO MY NAME!
LOOK, I'VE GOT A COUPON!
UNDER-STOOD?
OSCAR!
HEY, THAT'S ERIC!
HI EVERY-ONE!
HEY!
YES, I NOTICED HIM SOME TIME AGO
SEE THAT BOY?
HE'S THE SPITTING IMAGE OF HERR WERNER'S SON, THE BOY WHO PASSED AWAY IN THAT ACCIDENT!
EXCEPT HIS EYES AND HAIR ARE A DIFFERENT COLOR

THERE'S THE CUTE GIRL WHO ALWAYS COMES AT THIS TIME!
I WONDER IF THEY'RE WAITING FOR GIRLS WHILE THEY SIP THEIR TEA
YES, I'M SHOWING ERIC THE TOWN AND THE LOCAL GIRLS!
WE COULD'VE ALL GONE OUT TOGETHER!
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, OSCAR? ARE YOU TAKING ERIC OUT?
GIRLS !!
SHE'S SO ADORABLE!
I STILL DON'T KNOW HER NAME... BUT SHE ALWAYS WEARS A LIGHT BLUE RIBBON.
STUDENTS WEAR RED TIES ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON
AHA! IS THIS A POPULAR MEETING PLACE?
IT'S NO USE! HE'S A LOST CAUSE!
WELL, FIRSTLY YOU HAVE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH THEM!
BUT HOW IS THAT INTERESTING?
GIVE THEM A KISS!
WELL! ISN'T IT FUN TO CHAT WITH THEM AND...
WHAT TO DO?
Hehe!
WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO DO WHEN YOU MEET A GIRL?
ERIC!
WHAT WAS THAT? I NEVER...
WHOA THERE, LADS!
Slam
LE BEBE PREFERS HIDING IN THE SHADOW OF HIS MAMA'S SKIRT!

YES, IT APPEARS HE'S TAKEN QUITE A LIKING TO ERIC, HASN'T HE?
WELL, GOOD FOR HIM!
I SEE! OSCAR MUST BE SHOWING HIM AROUND TODAY, HUH?
OUR LITTLE FRIEND WOULD'VE BEEN TOO DISTRACTING HE'S CUTER THAN A GIRL!
BUT HOW COULD WE HAVE WATCHED GIRLS WITH ERIC AROUND, REALLY?
SCHLOTTERBETZ STUDENTS DON'T START FIGHTS IN CAFES.
SEE YOU LATER.
THERE'S ENOUGH RED TIE HERE FOR THE ENTIRE TOWN TO STRANGLE YOU WITH! YOU RISK RUINING THE REPUTATION OF ALL SCHLOTTERBETZ STUDENTS WITH YOUR CONDUCT! THINK BEFORE YOU ACT!
IT'S TRUE! BEFORE OSCAR WAS SNUGGLING UP WITH JULI!
HE'S A FAST WORKER!
WHAT'S WITH ANTE? WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY THOSE WORDS?
?
FORGET THAT! HE'S PROBABLY MAKING IT UP LOOK AT THAT CUTE GIRL!
HUH? IS OSCAR FICKLE OR WHAT?
THIS TIME HE'S WITH ERIC!
WHAT?
BUT I SAW THEM!
NOW THERE'S SOME TRUTH IN THAT!
HOHOHO! JULI? YOU MEAN JULIUSMOLE, OUR HEAD PREFECT? THE PERSON THAT WOULDN'T EVEN FALL FOR THOMAS? HAHAHA!

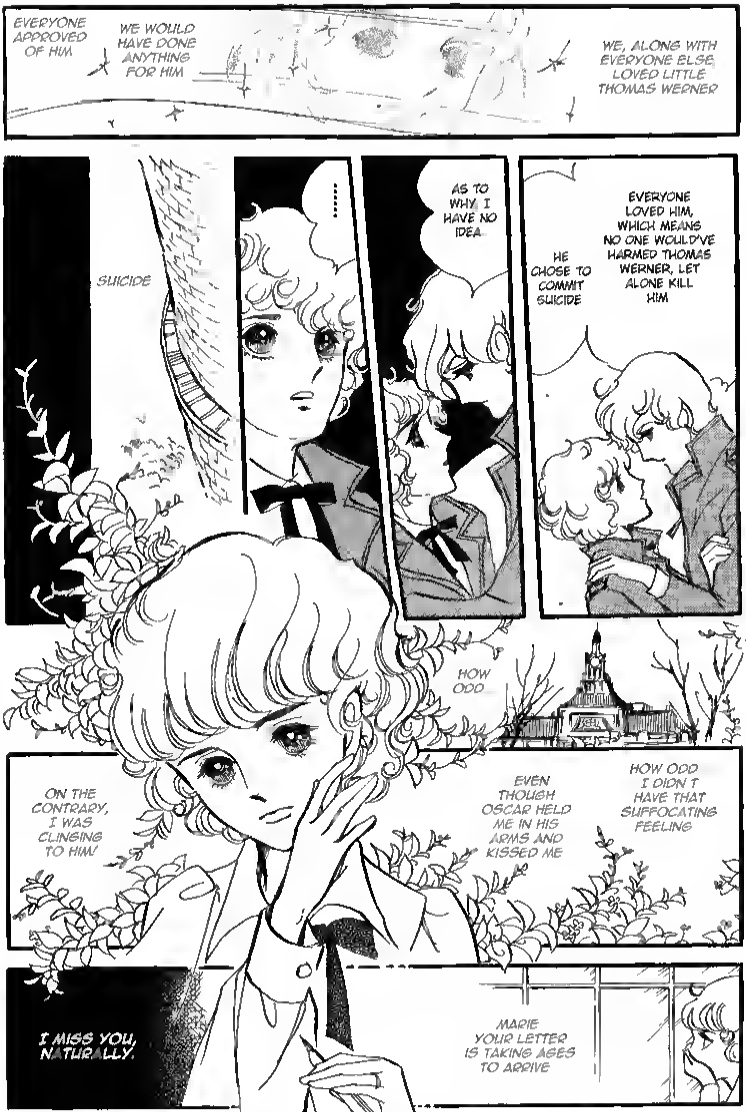
LYING ON THE BED KISSING EACH OTHER!
WHAT WAS THAT? LOWER YOUR VOICES A BIT, THE REST OF YOU!
I SAW THE TWO OF THEM AT THREE A.M. IN THE DEAD OF THE NIGHT...
WE'LL ALL THINK YOU'RE A LIAR IF YOU DON'T TELL US WHAT YOU'VE SEEN!
I CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT HERE
COME ON, OVER HERE! TAKE A LOOK DOWN HERE!
.....
THERE IS!
IS THERE SOMEONE YOU LIKE THAT MUCH?
YOU'LL FIND OTHER PEOPLE YOU'LL LIKE AS WELL AS GIRLS AND CLOSE FRIENDS!
EVEN A PARTNER WHO CAN INSPIRE AND LIFT YOUR SPIRITS!
YOU KNOW, ERIC
EVEN IF YOU NEVER HEAR FROM MARIE...

IF YOU FAINT FROM A KISS UP HERE THEN YOU'LL SIMPLY FALL OVER THE EDGE, WON'T YOU?
.....
NO, NOT YOU
YOU... YOU MUST LIKE THIS PERSON MORE THAN YOUR FATHER, RIGHT? IS...IS IT ME?
THEN STOP IT! I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR A PRANK!
DID JULI KILL THOMAS WERNER?

SURELY THAT MEANS HE KILLED THOMAS!
BUT JULIUSMOLE DISLIKES ME BECAUSE I LOOK LIKE THOMAS!
HE EVEN SAID HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME!
THAT'S A HORRIBLE QUESTION TO ASK!
OSCAR
LOOK, THOMAS CHOSE TO COMMIT SUICIDE!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS! WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HE...
JULE
NOTHING! THOMAS WERNER HAD AN ACCIDENT...
WHAT ARE YOU HIDING FROM ME, OSCAR?!
NEVER MIND!
WHAT DID YOU SAY? SUICIDE?
THAT'S A LIE! YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING!
BUT JULI ADMITTED HIS GUILT RIGHT BEFORE ME!
WAH!

slam
haa haa
haa haa
AH...
AH...
clench
Y-YOU FOOL!
WHAT WERE YOU RUSHING AFTER ME FOR?
YOU UTTER MORON! YOU READY TO FOLLOW IN THOMAS'S FOOTSTEPS?

DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF AMOUR, THE SPIRIT OF LOVE?
GOOD GRIEF. LE BEBE
WE GAVE THOMAS THE NICKNAME OF 'FRAULEIN'
BECAUSE WE REALLY LIKED HIM VERY MUCH
.....
BECAUSE YOU SEE
THE SPIRIT OF AMOUR LIVED WITHIN THOMAS PURE AND IDEAL AND PERFECT
BUT INSTEAD OF BEING BLESSED WITH HAPPINESS THIS INDIVIDUAL WHO TOUCHED THE HEARTS OF OTHERS WAS LEFT WITH NOTHING
THAT WAS ALL


EVERYONE APPROVED OF HIM
WE WOULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING FOR HIM
WE, ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE, LOVED LITTLE THOMAS WERNER
SUICIDE
.....
AS TO WHY, I HAVE NO IDEA
HE CHOSE TO COMMIT SUICIDE
EVERYONE LOVED HIM, WHICH MEANS NO ONE WOULD'VE HARMED THOMAS WERNER, LET ALONE KILL HIM
HOW ODD...
ON THE CONTRARY, I WAS CLINGING TO HIM!
EVEN THOUGH OSCAR HELD ME IN HIS ARMS AND KISSED ME
HOW ODD I DIDN'T HAVE THAT SUFFOCATING FEELING
I MISS YOU, NATURALLY.
MARIE YOUR LETTER IS TAKING AGES TO ARRIVE

THAT'S OSCAR!
LOOK!
ERIC!
AS I LEARN MY WAY AROUND I FIND I'M QUITE ENJOYING IT HERE
BUT I'VE BEGUN TO FEEL VERY MUCH AT HOME IN THIS SCHOOL.
I LAUGH AND ARGUE WITH ALL THE OTHER BOYS
I LIKE OSCAR HE'S MADE SURE I GET TO KNOW MY CLASS-MATES
I'M NO LONGER THE ODD ONE OUT BUT I'VE NOTICED THAT I DO HAVE ERRATIC MOOD SWINGS LATELY
IT'S JUST PART OF GROWING UP
HEH HEH
HE APPOINTED THEM BOTH TO BE DORM SUPERVISORS. WELL IT'S A GREAT PRIVILEGE! ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'VE GOT A TWIN ROOM ALL TO THEMSELVES!
I BELIEVE IT ALL STARTED IN HERR HOMANN'S ROOM. RIGHT? YES, FOR SURE
CLUNK
IT'S STARTING TO SPREAD
BUT IS IT TRUE?
HEH HEH
YET JULI SEEMS AS PROPER AND RESPECTABLE AS A CHURCH, HUH?
THERE'S GOSSIP HERE AND THERE
WHO DO YOU THINK MADE THE FIRST MOVE?
I BET IT WAS OSCAR!

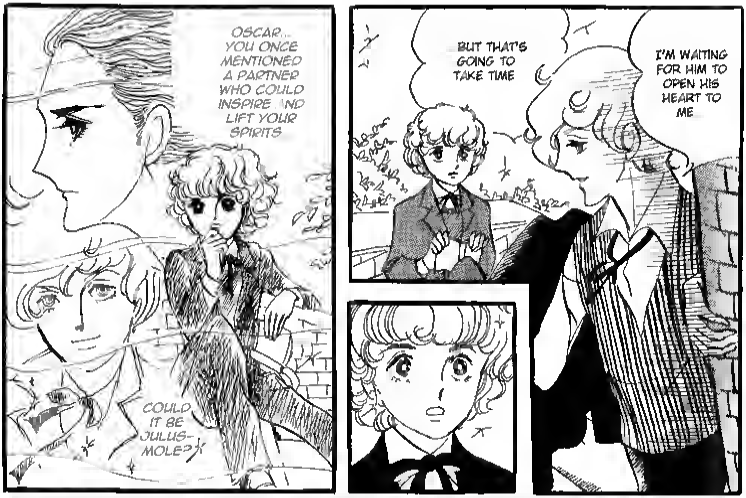
SLAM
LIEB!
HERBERT!
HERBERT!
TAKE THAT BACK! TAKE THAT BACK!
I WON'T, YOU PIECE OF SCUM!
JULI!
IF YOU'RE ENGAGING IN A SPORTING CONTEST, THEN TAKE IT OUTSIDE. THIS IS A STUDY ROOM
WHOA! YOU ACCUSE ME OF NEGLECTING MY RESPONSIBILITIES? THEN WHAT ABOUT YOU, HEAD PREFECT?
HERE ARE YOUR GLASSES, HERBERT. FOR SOMEONE IN CHARGE OF A DORM ROOM YOU'RE NEGLECTING YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES!
AND YOU'RE MEANT TO MAINTAIN DISCIPLINE IN LIEB'S ROOM!
H-HERBERT WAS MAKING SLANDEROUS ACCUSATIONS ABOUT YOU AND OSCAR!
huff huff
B-BUT HERBERT...
HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT?
YOU AND OSCAR WERE KISSING EACH OTHER!
I'VE HEARD THE RUMORS!

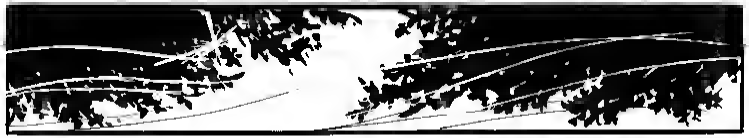
THE PROBLEM IS YOURS, NOT MINE. YOU CAN EITHER REJECT ME OR ACCEPT ME BASED ON THE GOSSIP. FEEL FREE TO DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS.
BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO CRACK OR FALL APART UNDER THE PRESSURE. I AM WHAT I AM.
THEN YOU ADMIT IT!
chatter
I DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN ANYTHING
SO AM I A FOOL FOR BEING SWAYED BY GOSSIP?!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
chuckle
ALWAYS ACTING THE PART OF THE MODEL STUDENT! SCHLOTTERBETZ'S PARAGON OF SCHOLARLY VIRTUE!
I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF YOU!
BANG
FINE THEN, DAMN YOU! YOU ALWAYS WALK AROUND HOLDING A ROSTER UNDER YOUR ARM EVERY SINGLE DAY!

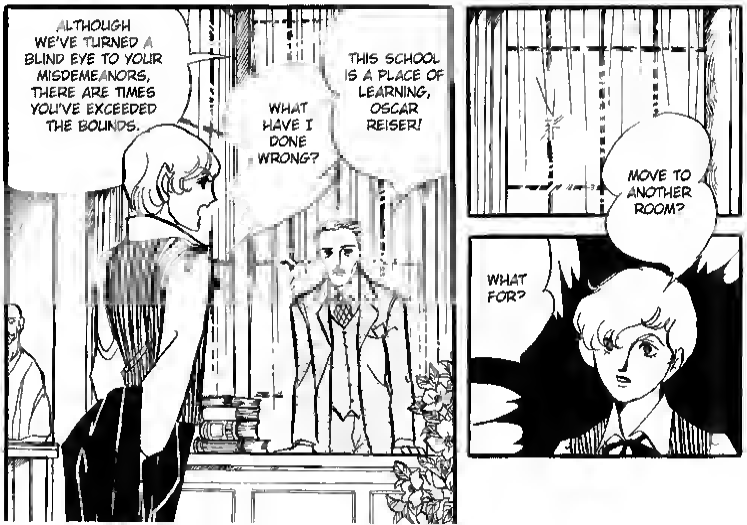
VERY WELL THEN! IN THAT CASE I'LL BE A FOOL!
REALLY? SO DOES THAT MAKE YOU AN ADULT? YOU THINK YOU'RE SO PERFECT?
YOU REMIND ME OF AN OBSTINATE CHILD
HERBERT
SINCE YOU CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF ME I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE OF YOU EXCUSE ME
!
HERBERT
I NEED TO KNOW! HE'S THE ONE WHO OWES ME AN APOLOGY, RIGHT?
Listen

DELIBERATE! RUTHLESS! RIGHT, HE'S RIGHT HERE!
HE WAS RUTHLESS...
BUT WE'RE IN THE SAME YEAR!
WELL, HE IS MORE MATURE THAN YOU!
bang
HE MADE ME LOOK LIKE A FOOL... AND TREATED ME LIKE A KID!
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S MORE SPECIAL THAN THE REST OF US!
JULI DID WHAT?
HE SIMPLY DIDN'T NEED HIMSELF FROM HIS FRIEND WITH EVERY STEP.
HE DIDN'T STRIKE HERBERT.
IN THE PAST, JULI WASN'T LIKE THIS
HE REFUSED TO UNDERSTAND... I'M SURE OF IT YET YOU AND HE GET ALONG WELL IN THE SAME ROOM, DON'T YOU?
HE... HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HERBERT'S FEELINGS AT ALL
HE WAS SO ARROGANT I WONDER IF HE SHOULD'VE ANSWERED THE WAY HE DID...

LE BEBE SOMETIMES YOU TAKE ME BY SURPRISE
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT!
I'VE KNOWN HIM SINCE THE TIME WE BOTH STARTED AT THIS SCHOOL. I GUESS IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS NOW
HE DOES LOVE HIS FRIENDS REALLY HE'S DOING A GOOD JOB AS HEAD PREFECT
DESPITE WHAT YOU SAW HERBERT DOES LIKE JUL!
HE JUST GETS MAD WHEN HE'S TREATED LIKE AN INFERIOR.
BUT I GUESS JULI IS ACTING THE STRONG LEADER FOR THE SAKE OF APPEARANCES
IT'S THE HEADMASTER!
OSCAR!
OSCAR!
HE'S HAD TO DEAL WITH MANY HARDSHIPS
SO HE PUTS ON A GUISE FOR THE LIKES OF YOU
THE TRUTH IS HE'S EMPTY INSIDE
RIGHT, I'M ON MY WAY
HE'S CALLING FOR YOU!!


OSCAR... YOU ONCE MENTIONED A PARTNER WHO COULD INSPIRE AND LIFT YOUR SPIRITS
COULD IT BE JULIUS-MOLE?!
BUT THAT'S GOING TO TAKE TIME
I'M WAITING FOR HIM TO OPEN HIS HEART TO ME




ALTHOUGH WE'VE TURNED A BLIND EYE TO YOUR MISDEMEANORS, THERE ARE TIMES YOU'VE EXCEEDED THE BOUNDS.
WHAT HAVE I DONE WRONG?
THIS SCHOOL IS A PLACE OF LEARNING, OSCAR REISER!
MOVE TO ANOTHER ROOM?
WHAT FOR?

I'VE BEEN TOO LENIENT WITH YOU
YOU'RE BEING MOVED TO A ROOM OF SIX IN SIMON HALL
WILL JULI BE ON HIS OWN?
AS FOR ME, THIS IS THE WAY I AM. IT'S NOT EASY FOR A LEOPARD TO CHANGE ITS SPOTS.
I SWEAR ON MY LIFE THAT I HAVEN'T COMMITTED ANY CRIME NOR BROKEN ANY SCHOOL RULES.
IN WHAT WAY? HE'S AN EXCELLENT HEAD PREFECT.
IS THIS ALL ABOUT THOSE STUPID RUMORS?
IT SEEMS YOU HAVE A SMOKING HABIT TOO BUT THIS TIME YOU'VE COMPROMISED JULI
YES, IT IS
ERIC FRUEHLING WILL BE SHARING THE ROOM WITH HIM
JULI IS A FINE HEAD PREFECT, AND ERIC IS NO ORDINARY PUPIL!
I THOUGHT JULI'S BEHAVIOR WOULD SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR ERIC TO FOLLOW
WATCH OVER HIM? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT?
SO YOU...
...THINK ERIC CAN WATCH OVER HIM?

YOU HAVE THE FINAL WORD, HEADMASTER MUELLER
EXCUSE ME I SPOKE OUT OF TURN
REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU MAY KNOW ABOUT A PARTICULAR STUDENT, CAN I DEPEND ON YOUR DISCRETION?
OSCAR REISER, AS GUSTAV'S SON, YOU'RE VERY DEAR TO ME
COLLECT YOUR BELONGINGS, ERIC! FROM TONIGHT YOU'LL BE SHARING THE DORM SUPERVISOR'S ROOM WITH JULI!
I'M MOVING INTO THIS ROOM! I HOPE WE CAN ALL GET ALONG!
whaw
OSCAR, WHAT'S GOING ON?
OSCAR !
NO WAY!
HE'S GOING TO KILL ME!

ユーキ…ユキスキール！

トーマの心臓 2

萩尾望都

REGARDLESS OF THE VERACITY OF THE RUMORS SPREAD BY THE TROUBLEMAKER ANTE POHE, OSCAR WAS EXPELLED FROM JOHANNES HALL, AND HIS VACATED BED WAS PREPARED FOR ME
THE COOL RAIN NUMBS MY HEAD. YET JULI'S CRUEL REMARKS FILL ME WITH ANXIETY, UNEASE AND FRUSTRATION. EVEN SO, I HAVE SMALL HOPES OF TURNING THIS SITUATION TO MY ADVANTAGE. PERHAPS THIS WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO GET TO KNOW HIM BETTER
BUT I WAS WELL AWARE THAT WE HAD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING IN COMMON

AHH, IT MUST BE UP THESE STAIRS
SO WHERE'S THE DORM SUPERVISOR'S ROOM?
IS THIS IT? THE STEPS END HERE
YES THIS MUST BE THE ROOM
clom clom
wham
YES, COME IN! YOU'RE MY NEW ROOM-MATE
WE'LL BE SHARING THIS ROOM.

I'M AS UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS AS YOU, YOU KNOW! WHEN I FOUND OUT I WAS BEING LOCKED UP HERE, I DIDN'T COME WILLINGLY
MAY I ENTER? YOU HEARD THE NEWS FROM OSCAR, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU SHOULDN'T BE SAYING SUCH THINGS TO ME
CREAK
OH! DOES THIS ROOM HAVE RUNNING HOT WATER?
YOU'RE NOT JUST LIVING UP HERE. YOU'RE TAKING ON THE DUTIES OF DORM HEAD. I'LL BE EXPECTING YOU TO CARRY OUT YOUR TASKS PROPERLY.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED UP HERE?
IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE A PRIVATE ROOM! YOU'VE EVEN GOT AN ENSUITE BATH-ROOM!
CREAK

IS THAT POTASSIUM CYANIDE?
KCN
YES, THANK YOU.
IT DOES. WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA? I ONLY HAVE TEA BAGS THOUGH
THAT LABEL WAS OSCAR'S IDEA OF A JOKE. THERE'S REAL SUGAR IN THAT JAR
shff shff
KCN
OSCAR DID LEAVE SOME COGNAC BEHIND— SHALL I POUR THAT FOR YOU INSTEAD?

...OR STAB ME WITH A KNIFE!
NO YOU WON'T, BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO SMART FOR THAT!
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D STRANGLE ME IN MY SLEEP...
YOU'D CHOOSE A METHOD THAT WOULDN'T ATTRACT ANY SUSPICION, RIGHT?
clatter
clink
HEY! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO THREATENED TO KILL ME REMEMBER?
WE'RE SHARING THE SAME ROOM, SO SURELY YOU'VE GOT YOUR CHANCE NOW...
DO YOU WISH TO DIE? WHY DON'T YOU COMMIT SUICIDE? THAT WOULD BE EASIER!
...AND KILL ME FIRST, IF YOU WANT.
YOU CAN GO AHEAD
AND I DON'T WANT TO BE REMINDED OF THOMAS WERNER!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO DO IT, NOT RIGHT BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES.
IF I COULD, I WOULD'VE DONE THAT LONG AGO.

ANYONE IS CAPABLE OF MURDER.
scrape
YOU HAD THE COMPOSURE OF A PERSON CAPABLE OF MURDER
REALLY? BUT LOOK AT THE MATURE WAY YOU DEALT WITH HERBERT
I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT HIM, ALL RIGHT?
clink
I DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD
YOU WON'T MAKE IT INTO HEAVEN, YOU KNOW.
THAT'LL MAKE THE DICTATORS OUT THERE VERY HAPPY!
ERIC... COULD YOU STOP TALKING TO ME FOR A MOMENT? EVEN THE WAY YOU SPEAK REMINDS ME OF THOMAS
JULI...
IS A HEAD PREFECT ALLOWED TO SPEAK SUCH HERESY, JULIUSMOLE?
HOW CAN YOU DELIVER THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FROM THE PULPIT AT MASS EACH SUNDAY? YOU SEEM SO PIOUS AND DEVOUT!

IF YOU DIDN'T, WHY THEN DOES HE WEIGH SO HEAVILY ON YOUR MIND?
YOU LIKED THOMAS WERNER, DIDN'T YOU?
BECAUSE YOU LIKED HIM, RIGHT?
WHY BE SO OFFENDED WHEN THOMAS MADE FUN OF YOU WITH HIS PRANK?
YOU'RE WRONG!
YOU RE WRONG!
I DON'T LOVE ANYONE!
DON'T TALK TO ME ANYMORE!
JULI ...
JULI... OSCAR SAYS YOU AND I SHOULD TRY TO GET ALONG TOGETHER.

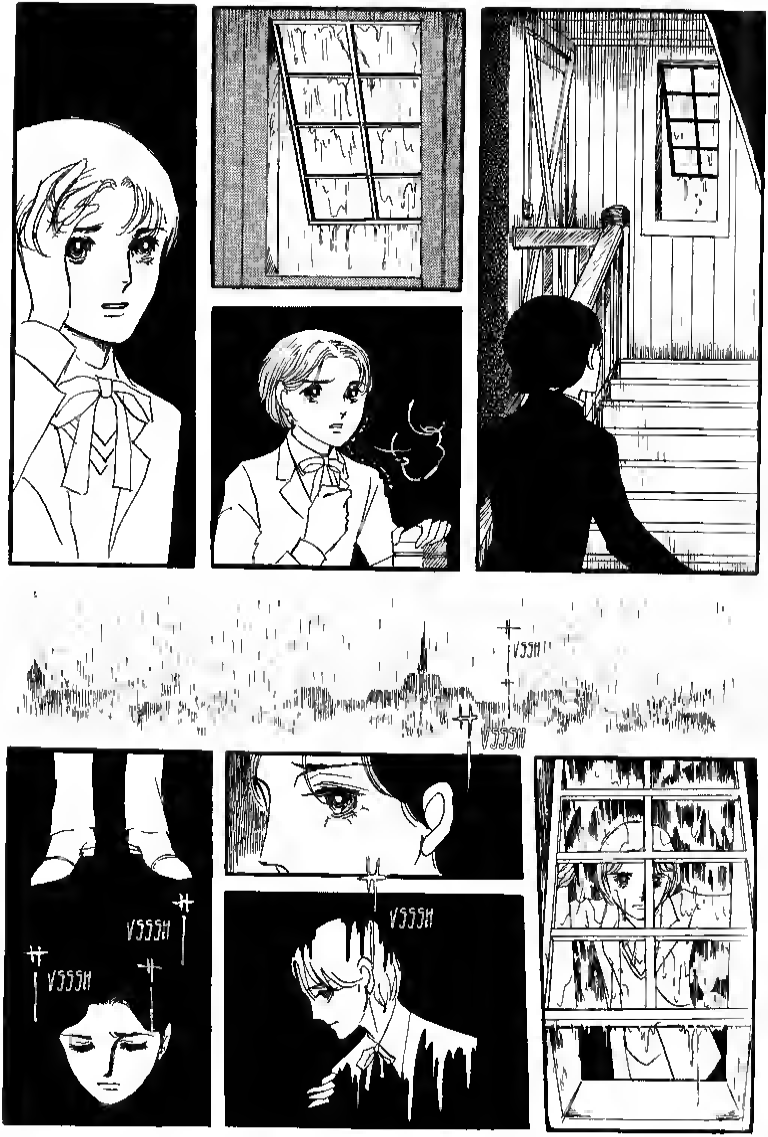
NO, THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT TO ME
IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US TO BE ABLE TO OPEN OUR HEART TO SOMEONE THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT OSCAR SAID TO ME. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I TREAT EVERYONE AS IMPARTIALLY AS I POSSIBLY CAN.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME ANYONE S ASKED ME THAT.
YES, MY VIRTUE AND HONOR.
DO YOU HAVE ANY CLOSE FRIENDS?
YOU LIAR!
I LIKE THEM, THAT'S ALL
SO THESE FRIENDS LISTEN TO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
FRIENDSHIP, FAVORITISM, PITY... ALL THOSE TEDIOUS EMOTIONS ..
I DETEST THE IDEA OF GROVELING BEFORE OTHERS JUST SO THEY'LL LIKE ME!

...ARE NOTHING BUT A NUISANCE.
HUH! WELL, NOW THAT YOU'VE TOLD ME THE THINGS YOU LIKE,
JULIUSMOLE BAYHAN--
I HATE YOU SO MUCH!
I HATE LIARS LIKE YOU THE MOST!

slam
YOU'VE GOT DEFENDERS LIKE LIEB AND ADAM WHO RESPECT YOU SO MUCH THEY GOT CAUGHT UP IN A BRAWL WITH HERBERT OVER YOU!
BUT THE TRUTH IS YOU'RE JUST PUTTING ON AN ACT! HOW CAN YOU DECEIVE EVERYONE LIKE THIS?!
IN PUBLIC YOU'RE AN EXEMPLARY HEAD PREFECT
I'D FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT THOMAS'S FUNERAL
BECAUSE HE KEEPS APPEARING BEFORE ME DAY AFTER DAY
AS YOU!
I WOULD'VE BEEN PERFECTLY FINE IF YOU HADN'T COME TO THIS SCHOOL

LOOK, I'M NOT THOMAS WERNER!
AS LONG AS I DIDN'T HAVE TO SET EYES ON YOU—
YOU'RE THE VERY ESSENCE OF THOMAS!
YOU LOVE NO ONE?
DOES THAT MEAN
kachik
slam

thud
thud
thud
thud
thud
thud
IN THE PAST JULI WASN'T LIKE THIS
HE DOES LOVE HIS FRIENDS REALLY - HE'S DOING A GOOD JOB AS HEAD PREFECT
BUT THEN, JULIUS-MOLE
CAN YOU HONESTLY LIVE LIKE THIS FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?
ALL ALONE?


VSSSH
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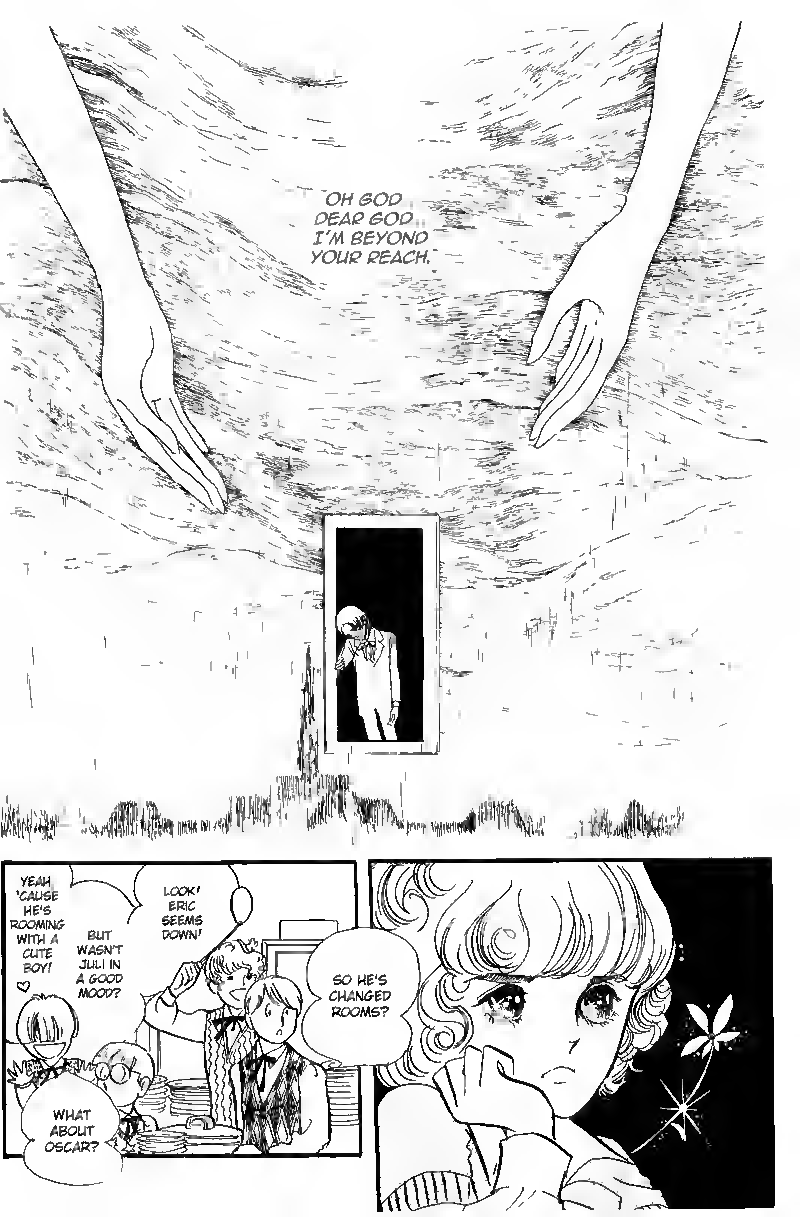
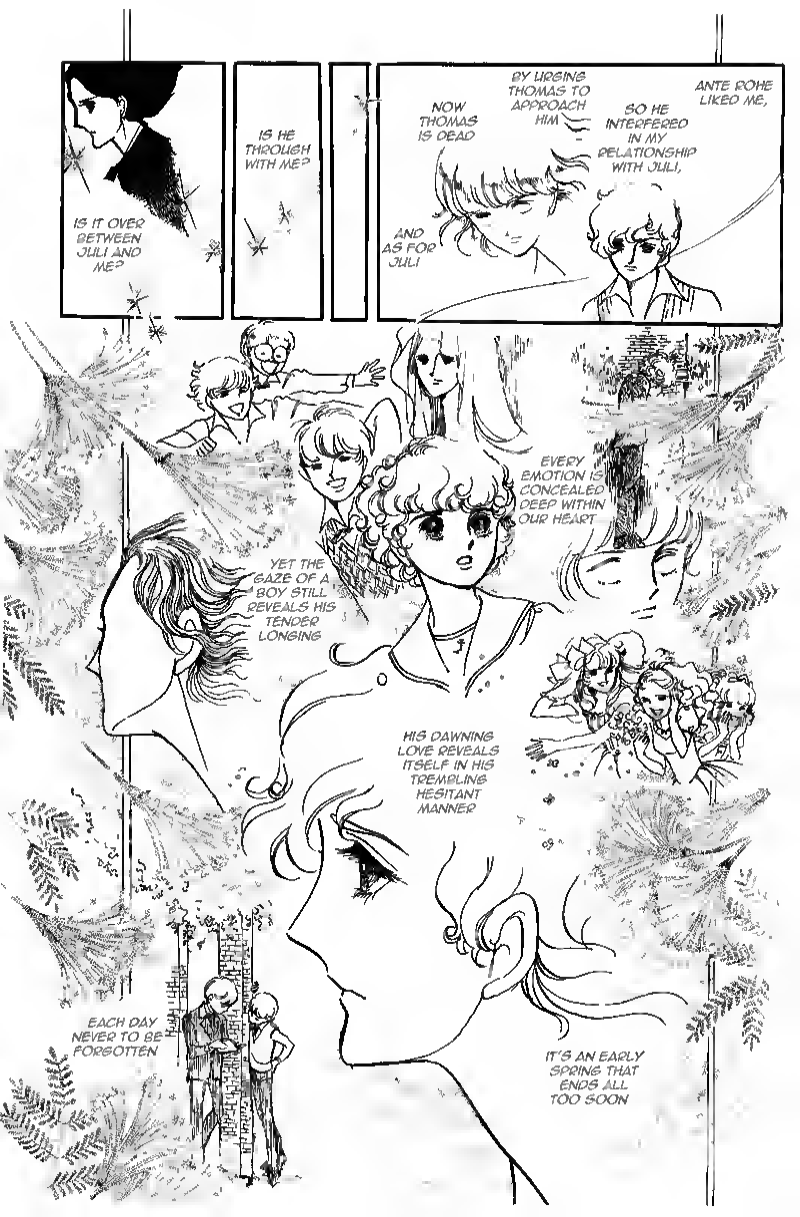

OH GOD
DEAR GOD,
I'M BEYOND
YOUR REACH.
YEAH, 'CAUSE HE'S ROOMING WITH A CUTE BOY!
BUT WASN'T JULI IN A GOOD MOOD?
LOOK! ERIC SEEMS DOWN!
SO HE'S CHANGED ROOMS?
WHAT ABOUT OSCAR?

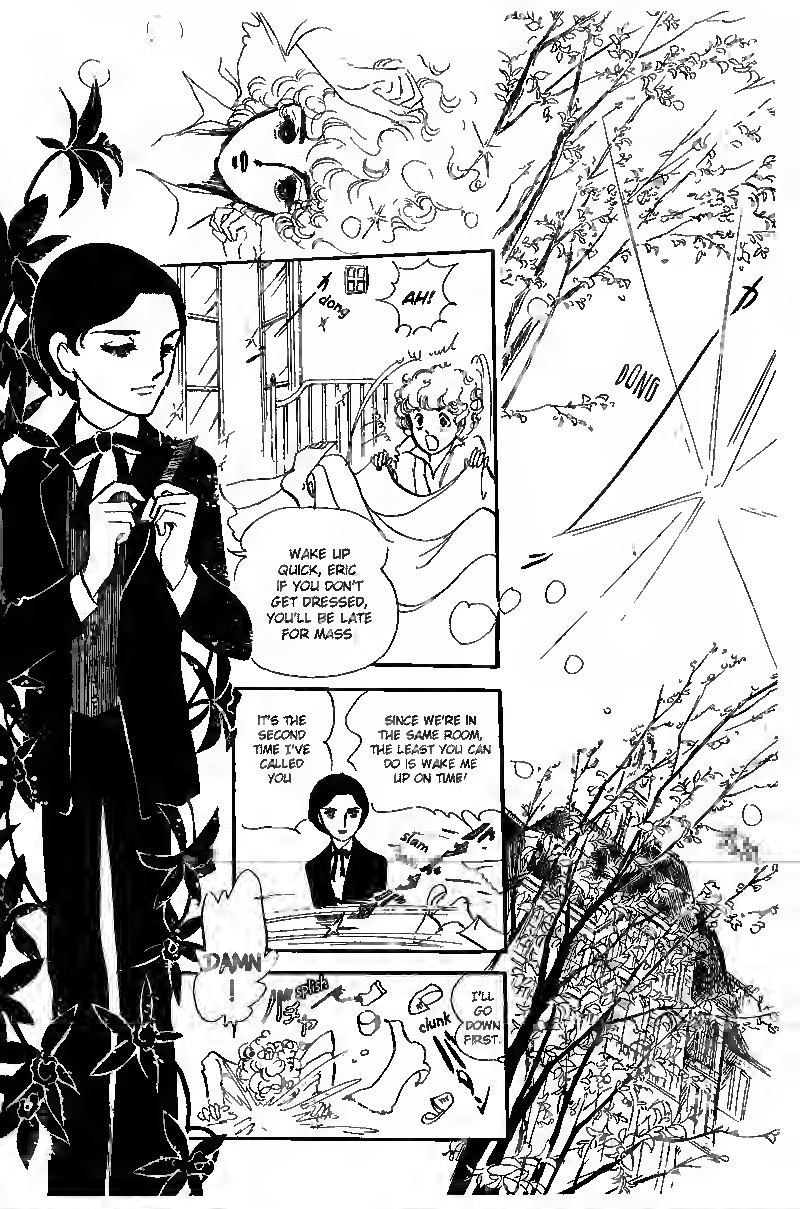
HMPH!
YEAH, JULI WILL BE CALLING ON ERIC TO HELP HIM OUT!
NOTHING JUST THAT IT'S HARD WORK BEING IN CHARGE OF A DORM!
WERE YOU ASKING SOMETHING ABOUT ME?
I WARNED HIM TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT!
WHERE'S THAT TROUBLEMAKER, ANTE ROHE?
OSCAR!
HOW DARE YOU SPREAD THOSE RUMORS!
HOLD IT!
DID YOU FINISH YOUR HOMEWORK IN THE STUDY ROOM, ANTE?
UH HUH, IT WAS A BREEZE!
YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD, AREN'T YOU?

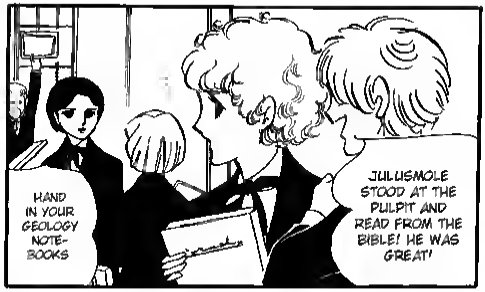
I THINK GIVING YOU A COUPLE OF HARD PUNCHES MIGHT DO WONDERS FOR IMPROVING YOUR CHARACTER!
YOU WOULDN'T BEAT UP A YOUNGER STUDENT FOR FUN, WOULD YOU?
OSCAR— WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
rustle
WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO? I COULD TELL JULI LIKED ERIC! HE HAD HIS EYES ON ERIC ALL THE TIME!
HUH? KNOW YOUR FEELINGS, YOU LITTLE—
Wah!
FROM THE MOMENT I URGED THOMAS INTO MAKING A MOVE ON JULI, I—
THEY WERE GOING TO PAIR UP SOONER OR LATER!
SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE TWO OF THEM SHARING THE SAME ROOM?
NOT ONCE YOU KNOW MY FEELINGS FOR YOU!
NO, YOU WOULDN'T, OSCAR!
YOU WOULDN'T HIT ME!
OSCAR!
SLAP

I-I DID IT...
BECAUSE I LIKED YOU!
WAS THAT YOUR BET - TO SEE WHICH OF YOU COULD CATCH JULLISMOLE?
SO YOU... PUT THOMAS UP TO IT?
YOU SET UP THIS WHOLE PRANK FROM THE START...
...TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN ME AND JULI!
YOU URGED THOMAS ON!
YOU PLANNED THIS!
NOT A CHANCE HE'S TOO SERIOUS FOR THAT
HE'S SO HANDSOME! I WONDER IF HE'D FALL FOR ME IF I HOUNDED HIM FOR THREE DAYS STRAIGHT!
BESIDES HE ALWAYS SPENDS HIS TIME WITH OSCAR
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A GO, THOMAS?
COME ON, THOMAS WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO WIN HIM OVER?
BECAUSE I LIKED YOU ALL ALONG! WHY DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THE WAY I FEEL?

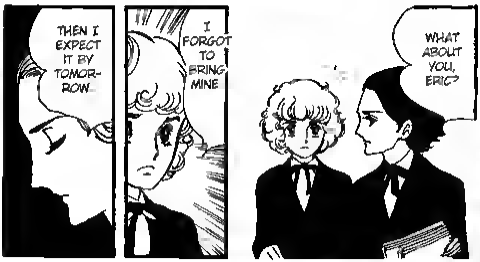
gulp
WOOSH
JULI, JULI, JULI! HE'S ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT!
LOOK AT HOW MUCH AGONY YOU'VE PUT JULI THROUGH!
JULI CAN DIE FOR ALL I CARE!
EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT IF YOU JUST COME BACK TO ME, OSCAR!
OSCAR, COME BACK!
COME BACK, OSCAR!
I DON'T MIND IF YOU LIKE SOMEONE ELSE!
NO!
OSCAR!


IS IT OVER BETWEEN JULI AND ME?
IS HE THROUGH WITH ME?
NOW THOMAS IS DEAD
BY URGING THOMAS TO APPROACH HIM
SO HE INTERFERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH JULI,
ANTE ROHE LIKED ME,
AND AS FOR JULI
EVERY EMOTION IS CONCEALED DEEP WITHIN OUR HEART
YET THE GAZE OF A BOY STILL REVEALS HIS TENDER LONGING
HIS DAWNING LOVE REVEALS ITSELF IN HIS TREMBLING HESITANT MANNER
EACH DAY NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN
IT'S AN EARLY SPRING THAT ENDS ALL TOO SOON

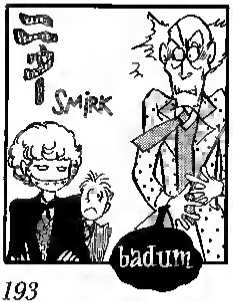

dong
AH!
DONG
WAKE UP QUICK, ERIC IF YOU DON'T GET DRESSED, YOU'LL BE LATE FOR MASS
IT'S THE SECOND TIME I'VE CALLED YOU
SINCE WE'RE IN THE SAME ROOM, THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS WAKE ME UP ON TIME!
slam
DAMN !
splash
clink
I'LL GO DOWN FIRST.

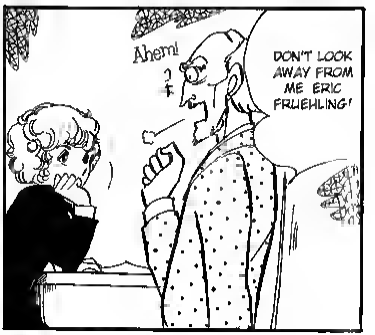

HAND IN YOUR GEOLOGY NOTE-BOOKS
JULLISMOLE STOOD AT THE PULPIT AND READ FROM THE BIBLE! HE WAS GREAT!

yawn
WEREN'T YOU AT MASS, ERIC?
I WASHED MY FACE AND WENT BACK TO BED AGAIN

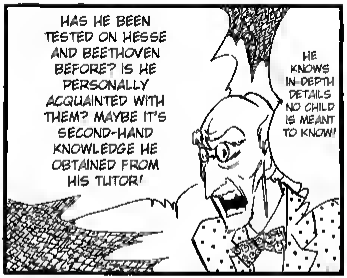

THEN I EXPECT IT BY TOMOR-ROW...
I FORGOT TO BRING MINE
WHAT ABOUT YOU, ERIC?

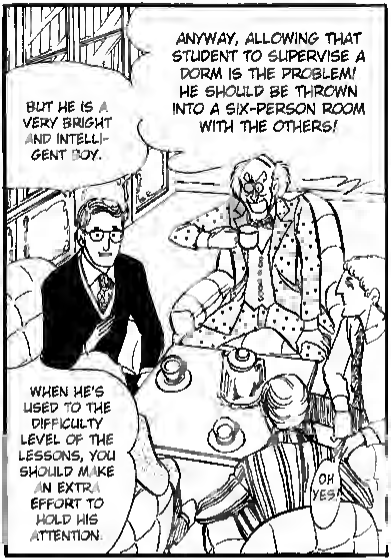
NEXT TIME THERE'LL BE A TEST ON WHAT YOU'VE STUDIED THIS WEEK! IT'LL COVER THE WORKS OF THE LITERARY GREAT HERMANN HESSE!
Wah!
WHEN DO I HAVE SPARE TIME TO DO MY ASSIGNMENTS? GEEZ IT'S SO MISERABLE SHARING THE SAME ROOM AS THAT DETESTABLE FELLOW EVERY DAY!

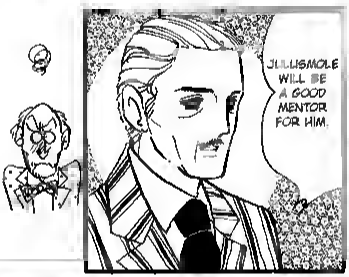

SMIRK
badum


Ahem!
DON'T LOOK AWAY FROM ME ERIC FRUEHLING!

DON'T GET MAD AT ME OVER NOTHING!
WHY ON EARTH DOES HE STARE AT ME LIKE THAT?
IT'S AS IF HE WANTS TO BEAT ME TO DEATH!
HERR BUSCH IS SUCH A HARD TASKMASTER!
slam thunk
wham
IS CLASS OVER? CAN WE GO?
"IN HIS YOUTH HE DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL AFTER WORKING IN A BOOKSHOP FOR THREE DAYS, HE RAN AWAY. HE BECAME A PRODIGAL SON."
"IF HESSE COULDN'T BE A POET, THEN HE DIDN'T WANT TO LIVE AT ALL. HOWEVER, HE MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF AS A NOVELIST AND LIVED TO THE RIPE OLD AGE OF EIGHTY-FIVE."
STUDENTS THESE DAYS! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH THEM?
THE NEW BOY IS QUITE A HANDFUL, ISN'T HE?
THE CHEEKY BRAT!
I'VE NEVER BEEN CHALLENGED BY A SINGLE PUPIL UNTIL NOW!
I'VE KEPT A CANE IN CLASS FOR FORTY YEARS!
HERE IT IS. ERIC FRUEHLING'S ESSAY ON HESSE


HAS HE BEEN TESTED ON HESSE AND BEETHOVEN BEFORE? IS HE PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH THEM? MAYBE IT'S SECOND-HAND KNOWLEDGE HE OBTAINED FROM HIS TUTOR!
HE KNOWS IN-DEPTH DETAILS NO CHILD IS MEANT TO KNOW!


ANYWAY, ALLOWING THAT STUDENT TO SUPERVISE A DORM IS THE PROBLEM! HE SHOULD BE THROWN INTO A SIX-PERSON ROOM WITH THE OTHERS!
BUT HE IS A VERY BRIGHT AND INTELLI-GENT BOY.
WHEN HE'S USED TO THE DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF THE LESSONS, YOU SHOULD MAKE AN EXTRA EFFORT TO HOLD HIS ATTENTION.
OH YES.

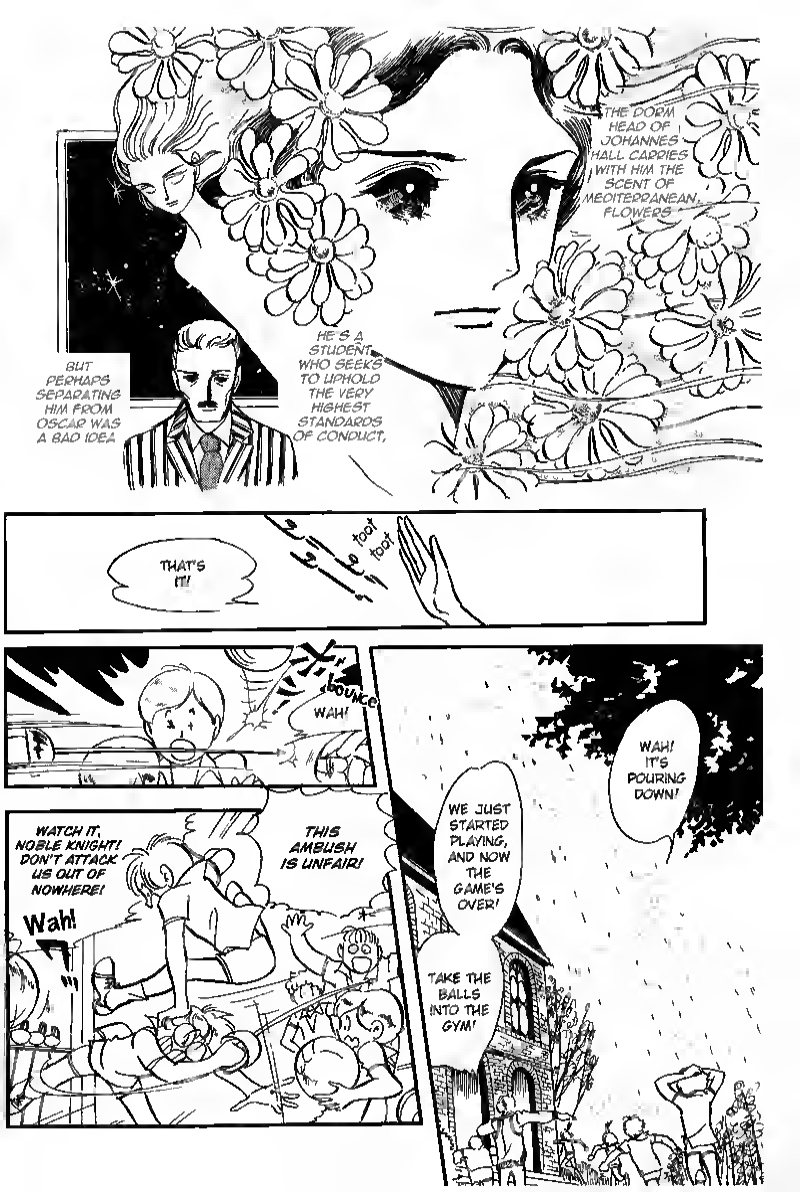

JULLISMOLE WILL BE A GOOD MENTOR FOR HIM.
??

NO, HIS INJURY FROM THAT INCIDENT HAS HEALED.
HAS JULLISMOLE BEEN TO YOUR OFFICE LATELY?

HERR ARZT?

EVENTUALLY TIME WILL FIX THAT, TOO

BUT HE STILL KEEPS HIS COLLAR TIGHTLY BUTTONED UP


THE DORM HEAD OF JOHANNES HALL CARRIES WITH HIM THE SCENT OF MEDITERRANEAN FLOWERS
HE'S A STUDENT WHO SEEKS TO UPHOLD THE VERY HIGHEST STANDARDS OF CONDUCT,
BUT PERHAPS SEPARATING HIM FROM OSCAR WAS A BAD IDEA
THAT'S IT!
toot toot
bounce
WAH!
WATCH IT, NOBLE KNIGHT! DON'T ATTACK US OUT OF NOWHERE!
THIS AMBUSH IS UNFAIR!
Wah!
WE JUST STARTED PLAYING, AND NOW THE GAME'S OVER!
WAH! IT'S POURING DOWN!
TAKE THE BALLS INTO THE GYM!

kick!
I'M HERE TO SAVE YOU, FAIR PRINCESS!
THEN FIGHT FOR THE VICTORY TROPHY INSTEAD OF A PRINCESS, BRAVE HERO!
WAH!
CRASH
swish
HAH!
YIKES, ERIC!
clang
clang
clang
NEVER! TO HELL WITH 'TIME OUT' DURING BATTLE!
WAH! TIME OUT! TIME OUT, PRINCESS!

clang
THAT'S NOT THE PROPER STANCE! RIGHT HAND! NOW LEFT! YOUR ELBOW'S ALL WRONG! PULL YOUR FOOT BACK!
MANY FENCERS HAVE BEEN VANQUISHED BY THE PRINCESS!
WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?
CLUNK
LUNGE
IT'S NO USE! OUR PRINCESS IS FAR TOO STRONG FOR THEM!
clatter
YES! GO JULI!
GO JULI!
FENCE FOR OUR SIDE!
WOW!
WOO HOO!
Hilfe!
HELP!
ARE YOU A STRONG FENCER?

DON'T LOSE THIS TIME, YOUR HIGHNESS!
YOU WANT TO TRY ME?
GO GET HIM, JULI!
FIGHT!
gleam
CRASH
SHOCK
HE'S
clang
Wow!

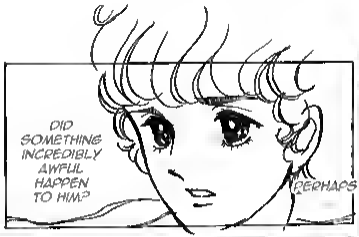
HE'S A MATCH FOR JULI!
WOW!
WOW! LOOK AT THEM!
WHAT A GREAT DUEL!
HE'S
clang
clang
clank
NO WAY!
LOSE TO HIM?
A MATCH FOR JULI!
THE TWO OF THEM.
shudder
I'LL LOSE IF I DON'T FIGHT FOR REAL!
VERY GOOD!
PING
crash
STOP THE DUEL! THE RUBBER CAP ON ERIC'S FOIL HAS FLOWN OFF!

JAB
AHH!
JULI!

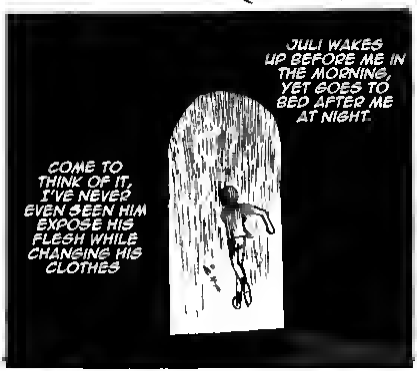
ガチャ!!
CRASH
CLANK
ハシー
SORRY, DID I CUT YOU?
IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS! I'LL GO GET CHANGED
WHAT AN UPSET! LE BEBE SCORED A HIT!
WOW!
WOW, JULI LOST! THAT'S INCREDIBLE!
JULI!
A WOUND ?
JULII JULII YOUR NECK WAS WOUNDED, WASN'T IT?
IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS!
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR NECK, JULIUSMOLE?
I-IT'S NOTHING, REALLY.

woosh
PUNCH
Wah!
DON'T TELL ME THAT WOUND'S A LOVERITE LEFT BY OSCAR?
HE SAYS IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS!
WELL! THE HEAD PREFECT'S ALL WORKED UP OVER A SINGLE HIT!
GUESS IT'S JUST A BRUISE
HER-BERT!
SHOW IT TO THEM, JULI!
LET THEM SAY WHATEVER THEY WANT!

IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS, SO GO AHEAD AND SHOW IT TO THEM! IT'S JUST...JUST AN OLD BURN SCAR!
Oh!
YOU KNEW?
?
AN OLD BURN SCAR?
EXCUSE ME... I'LL GO UP TO MY ROOM...
AND CHANGE
I...


DID SOMETHING INCREDIBLY AWFUL HAPPEN TO HIM?
PERHAPS

YOU'RE RIGHT! JULI WOULD DIE OF SHAME IF HE DID ANYTHING IMPROPER!
MAYBE HE'S IN SHOCK AFTER LOSING TO LE BEIGE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM? IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN JULI LIKE THIS!
HERBERT WAS WRONG TO CALL IT A LOVEBITE!
THERE WAS NO REASON TO MAKE A FUSS ABOUT JULI'S SCAR, WAS THERE?

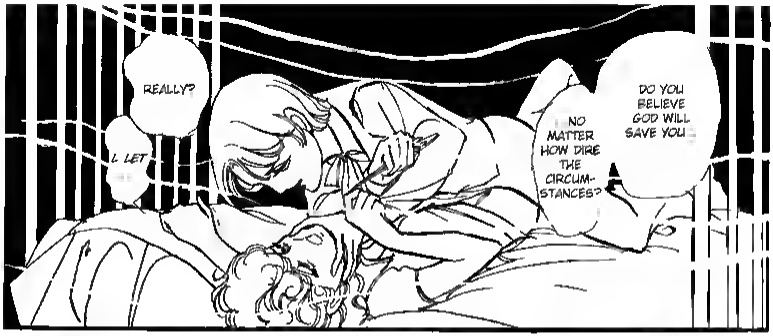

JULI WAKES UP BEFORE ME IN THE MORNING, YET GOES TO BED AFTER ME AT NIGHT.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN HIM EXPOSE HIS FLESH WHILE CHANGING HIS CLOTHES

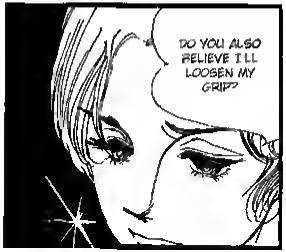
BUT IF HE'S DOING IT EVERY SINGLE DAY
wham
IS THAT JUST A HABIT OF HIS?

DID HE WORK OUT THE CAUSE OF MY DISCOLORED SKIN FROM A SINGLE GLANCE?
AN OLD BURN SCAR
DID OSCAR KNOW THIS WHEN I LIED ABOUT KNOCKING MYSELF ON A DESK?
OHH
GOD!
GOD! OH GOD!
A PAIR OF SCISSORS! WITH THE SCISSORS
I'LL GOUGE OUT THE ENTIRE SCAR!
clink

WHAT'S THE MATTER? IS IT THE SCAR BELOW YOUR NECK?
rattle
clatter
KYAA!

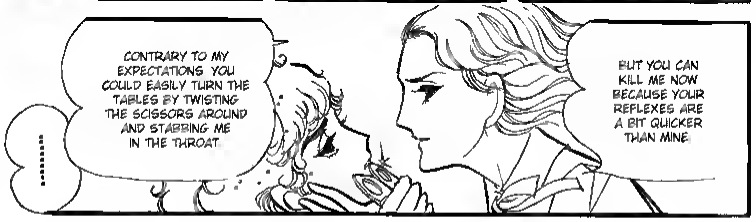
OH MY GOD!
GOD?
DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?


REALLY?
I LET
NO MATTER HOW DIRE THE CIRCUM-STANCES?
DO YOU BELIEVE GOD WILL SAVE YOU


DO YOU ALSO BELIEVE I'LL LOOSEN MY GRIP?

YES, I BELIEVE!
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE ERIC?

REALLY?
LET ME GO!

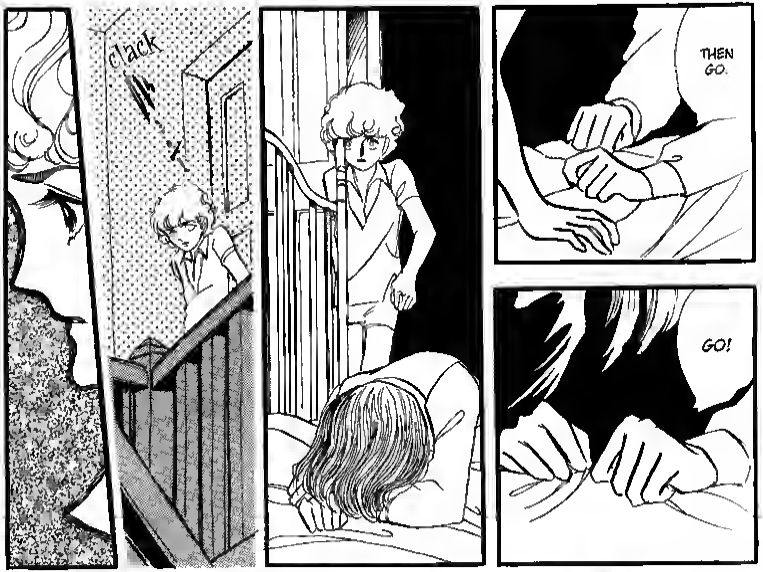

CONTRARY TO MY EXPECTATIONS YOU COULD EASILY TURN THE TABLES BY TWISTING THE SCISSORS AROUND AND STABBING ME IN THE THROAT
.....
BUT YOU CAN KILL ME NOW BECAUSE YOUR REFLEXES ARE A BIT QUICKER THAN MINE

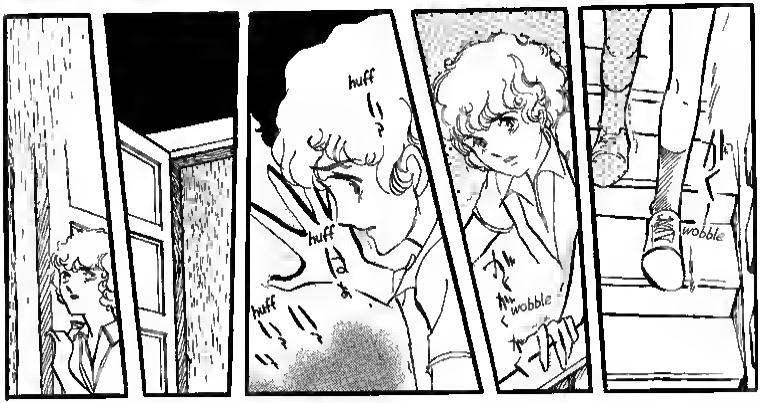
I'VE CONSIDERED TAKING MY OWN LIFE AT TIMES BUT NOT ONCE HAVE I EVER DESIRED THE DEATH OF ANYONE ELSE
S-SO IT...

THIS ISN'T A GAME YOU KNOW I'M SIMPLY HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS

I'D NEVER KILL ANYONE!

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING TO DO TO ME, THEN GO AHEAD AND DO IT. I'M UNARMED AND I WON'T PUT UP A FIGHT!
"FRIEND, DO WHAT YOU CAME FOR."
THAT WAS CHRIST'S WORDS TO JUDAS.
JULI?
JULI!



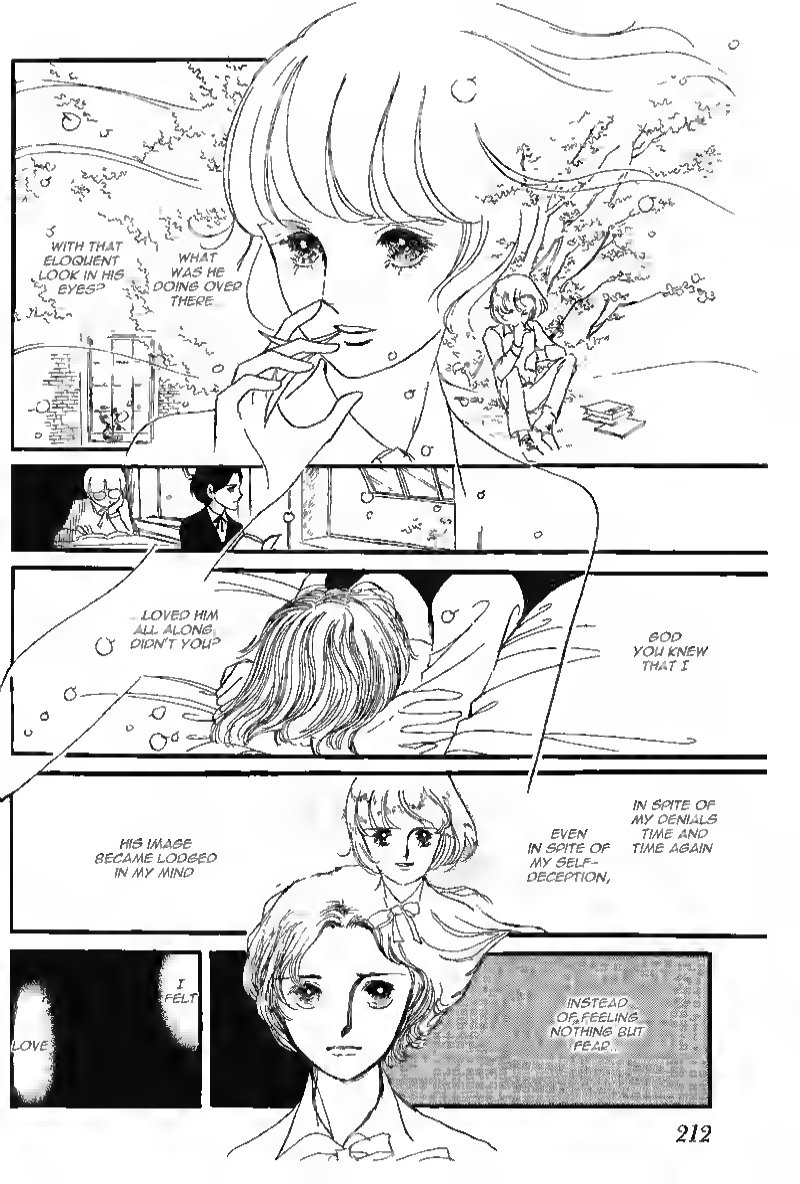


AND THE DAY AFTER THAT

AND THE DAY AFTER

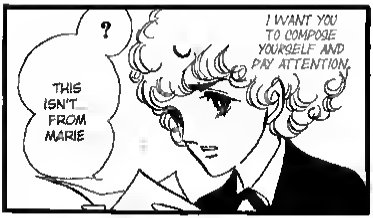
THAT DAY

HE WAS WHISTLING A TUNE USING A BLADE OF GRASS


WITH THAT ELOQUENT LOOK IN HIS EYES?
WHAT WAS HE DOING OVER THERE
...LOVED HIM ALL ALONG, DIDN'T YOU?
GOD YOU KNEW THAT I
HIS IMAGE BECAME LODGED IN MY MIND
EVEN IN SPITE OF MY SELF-DECEPTION,
IN SPITE OF MY DENIALS TIME AND TIME AGAIN
I FELT
LOVE
INSTEAD... OF FEELING... NOTHING BUT FEAR...

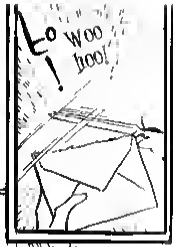
JULI!
THAT'S RIGHT! WE'VE GOT A SNAP TEST TOMORROW!
IS THIS FOR A TEST?
DO I KNOW WHAT?
HEAD PREFECT JULI! DO YOU KNOW HOW TO MEMORIZE THE PERIODIC TABLE BY HEART?
HERR HOMANN IS SO MEAN!
GEEZ, ERIC! LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
crash
crack
WHAT ON EARTH'S GOING ON?
A BROOM! SOMEONE GET A BROOM!
ERIC!
smash
BE CAREFUL, ERIC! HOLD THAT TRAY PROPERLY! TAKE CARE!

I'M SORRY BUT I CAN'T LIVE ANOTHER SECOND NEXT TO THIS FELLOW WITH A SPLIT PERSONALITY!
I'LL GET THEM TO CHANGE MY ROOM...
A LETTER!
I'VE LEFT IT IN YOUR ROOM..
I'LL GO AND KICK OSCAR OUT OF MY OLD BED!
ERIC! A LETTER HAS ARRIVED IN THE MAIL FOR YOU!
...?
ERIC FRUEHLING!
MY LETTER IS HERE!
thud
thud
thud
THANK YOU!!
AT LAST! MARIE!
whish

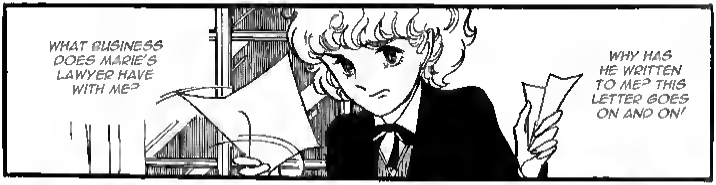

?
THIS ISN'T... FROM MARIE
I WANT YOU TO COMPOSE YOURSELF AND PAY ATTENTION.

AHH! IT'S FROM ALPHONNE KIMBURG OUR FAMILY LAWYER!
toss
WHO IS THIS? IT'S NOT MARIE!

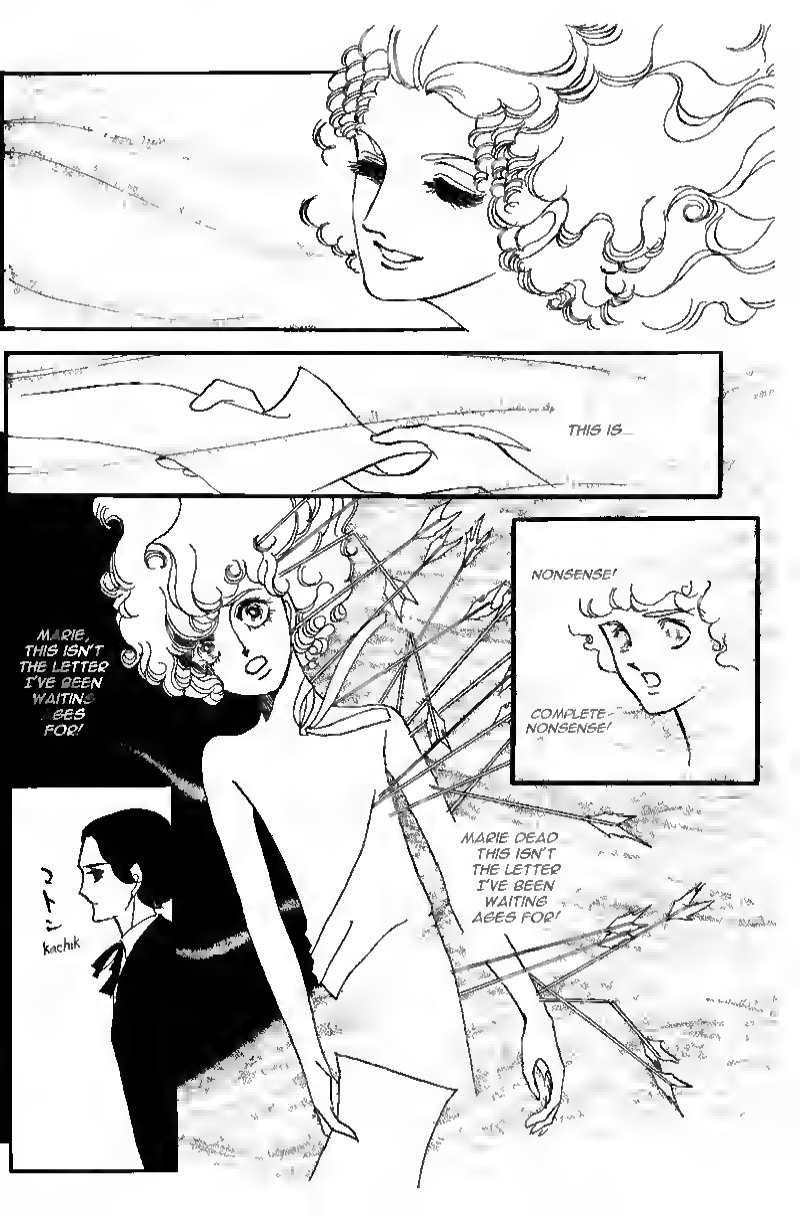
flash
HE'S A LAUGHING STOCK!
THAT BIG FAT BUFFOON!

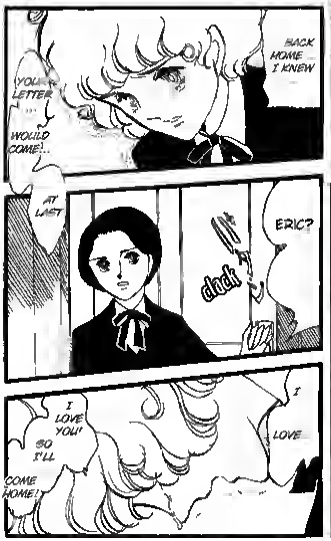

Woo hoo!

OH MARIE! IS THIS THE LETTER I'VE BEEN WAITING AGES FOR? DO YOU WANT ME BACK? HAVE YOU MISSED ME?
DEAR ERIC FRUEHLING, I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE INFORMED YOU SOONER, BUT IN MY JUDGMENT I HAVE LEFT IT TO THIS POINT IN TIME.

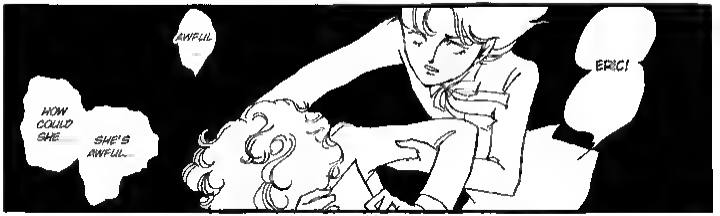

WHAT BUSINESS DOES MARIE'S LAWYER HAVE WITH ME?
WHY HAS HE WRITTEN TO ME? THIS LETTER GOES ON AND ON!

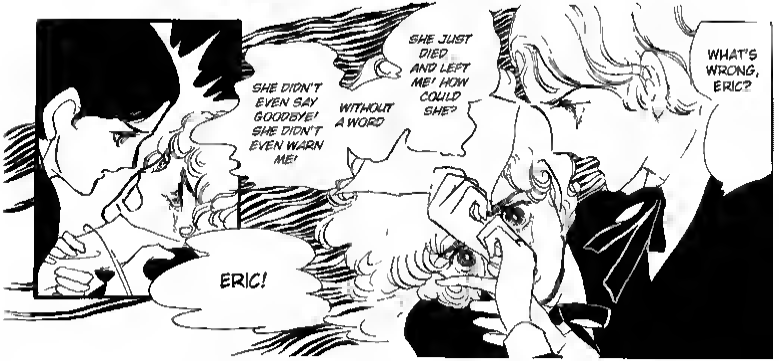
I'VE RECEIVED NEWS FROM THE POLICE THAT FRAU MARIE HAS PASSED AWAY IN A MOST TRAGIC ACCIDENT...
I LOVED YOU THE MOST! I LOVED YOU! I LOVED YOU!
OH MARIE! OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD


THIS IS...
NONSENSE!
COMPLETE NONSENSE!
MARIE, THIS ISN'T THE LETTER I'VE BEEN WAITING AGES FOR!
MARIE DEAD THIS ISN'T THE LETTER I'VE BEEN WAITING AGES FOR!
カチン
kachik


BACK HOME... I KNEW
YOU'D LETTER ... WOULD COME!..
AT LAST
ERIC?
I LOVE YOU! SO I'LL COME HOME!
I LOVE

I'M COMING


AWFUL
ERIC!
HOW COULD SHE
SHE'S AWFUL...


SHE JUST DIED AND LEFT ME! HOW COULD SHE?
WHAT'S WRONG, ERIC?
SHE DIDN'T EVEN SAY GOODBYE! SHE DIDN'T EVEN WARN ME!
WITHOUT A WORD
ERIC!

NO!
OOH
WHOW

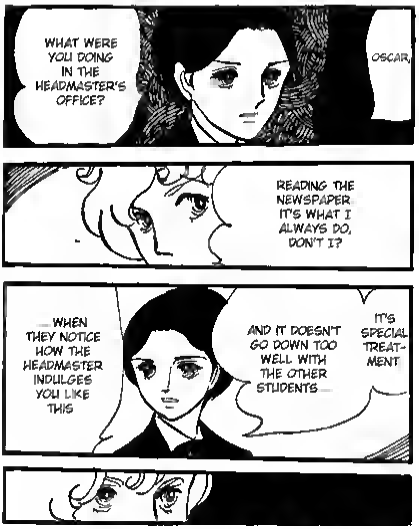
clink
flick
clatter
HM?
HOW MANY ?
HERR ARZT USED TO PRESCRIBE THEM FOR ME I HAD A FEW LEFT
SLEEPING TABLETS SAFE FOR A SLIGHT LAD LIKE YOU
clack
WHAT WAS THAT?

KILL ME
KILL ME
KILL ME
KILL
ME
conk
HIS MOTHER WAS IN AN ACCIDENT? IS THIS WHY HE'S SO UPSET?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
WAS IT... A FATAL DOSE?
ZZZ
THE POOR THING
HE MUST'VE LOVED HIS MOTHER SO MUCH
"BEHOLD MY ENGAGEMENT RING"

REMOVE YOUR REPULSIVE HAND FROM HIM AT ONCE JULI!
OUT OF PITY? COMPASSION? WHAT ABOUT THAT KISS JUST NOW? WAS THAT COMPASSION TOO?
REMOVE YOUR HAND, JULIUSMOLE BAYHAN! WHY ON EARTH ARE YOU STROKING HIS HAIR SO TENDERLY?
WHAT ON EARTH MAKES YOU THINK YOU'RE CAPABLE OF LOVING SOMEONE YOURSELF?
THEN QUICKLY STAND UP AND LEAVE THE ROOM!
DO YOU EVEN HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO LOVE SOMEONE, JULIUSMOLE?
YOU'VE SOLD YOURSELF TO THE DEVIL! YOU'LL NEVER BE GRANTED THE WINGS OF AN ANGEL, JULIUSMOLE!

PARDON ME FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR EVENING BUT ERIC RECEIVED A LETTER ABOUT HIS MOTHER.
WHAT LETTER?
I creak
YES SIR.
IS THAT YOU, JULLIS-MOLE?
IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO A LETTER FROM LAWYER ALPHONNE KIMBURG, THEN I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM HIM TOO.
OSCAR
IT OCCURED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF PARIS
TWO WEEKS AGO HERR KIMBURG RECEIVED NEWS OF AN ACCIDENT, AND WENT TO PARIS AT ONCE.
I'LL FILL YOU IN ON THE REST OF THE DETAILS.
HE ASKED AFTER HERR SCHWARTZ, AND LEARNED THAT ONE OF HIS LEGS HAD TO BE AMPUTATED
WAS TRAPPED IN THE CAR, WHICH WENT UP IN FLAMES
FRAU MARIE
TWO WEEKS AGO? BUT ERIC'S BEEN WAITING ALL THIS TIME FOR A LETTER FROM HIS MOTHER!

I'D PROBABLY THINK IT BEST TO TELL HIM TOMORROW... SOME TIME TOMORROW
NATURALLY, I'D LEAVE IT FOR ANOTHER DAY TOO
I SUPPOSE IF I WERE PLACED IN THE POSITION OF TELLING MY SON THAT HIS MOTHER WAS DEAD
HE WASN'T TOLD ANY OF THIS AT THE TIME.
ON THE DAY MY FATHER FIRED HIS GUN, HE SIMPLY TOLD ME A MINUTE LATER, "DON'T GO IN THAT ROOM. YOUR MOTHER'S DEAD."
TOMORROW... I'LL LET EVERYONE IN THE CL SS KNOW.
POOR ERIC. WHAT SHOULD WE DO? HE MUST BE HURTING SO MUCH.
AS HIS FRIENDS I WANT YOU BOTH TO STAND BY HIM.
EVEN ERIC'S...
THE PASSAGE OF TIME... USUALLY HEALS ALL WOUNDS,
I THINK IT'S THE FIRST FEW DAYS THAT ARE THE MOST DIFFICULT.


WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THE HEADMASTER'S OFFICE?
OSCAR,
READING THE NEWSPAPER IT'S WHAT I ALWAYS DO, DON'T I?
WHEN THEY NOTICE HOW THE HEADMASTER INDULGES YOU LIKE THIS
AND IT DOESN'T GO DOWN TOO WELL WITH THE OTHER STUDENTS
IT'S SPECIAL TREATMENT

SO DOES THIS MAKE ERIC AN ORPHAN?
THERE'S HERR SCHWARTZ HE'LL BECOME ERIC'S LEGAL GUARDIAN
HE'S LOST A LEG HASN'T HE?

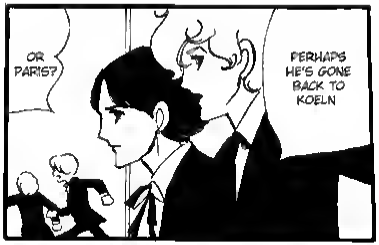
WE SIT FACING EACH OTHER AND READ THE NEWSPAPER AND TALK LITTLE OF SCHOOL
MOST OF THE TIME WE READ IN SILENCE
YOU SEE, I EXPECT OUR HEADMASTER
TO ANNOUNCE THAT HE WANTS TO ADOPT ME AS HIS SON ANY DAY NOW
ARE YOU KIDDING?
IT'S TRUE
SO YOU'LL SOMEHOW BECOME A SON TO A FAMILY FRIEND?
BUT WHAT IF HE DOESN'T ADOPT YOU?

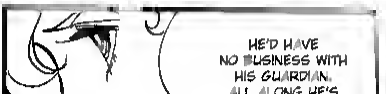
THANKS FOR THE CONCERN,
BUT IT'S ALL PART OF THE GAME I'M PLAYING!
SO WHAT HAND OF CARDS DO YOU HOLD?
A HAND THAT CAN'T BE BEATEN. ROYAL STRAIGHT FLUSH
THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE JOKER WILL BE THE VICTOR! THAT'S THE TRUMP CARD UP MY SLEEVE
WITH THIS ONE HAND OF CARDS I'M CERTAIN I'LL BE ABLE TO TOP ANY OTHER HAND.
YOU PUT ON A GOOD POKER FACE
SAVE YOUR CONCERN FOR POOR ERIC, HEAD PREFECT!
ERIC'S WORSE OFF THAN ME
SO WHO'S GOT THE POKER FACE?

SHE KISSED ME
KISSED
KISSED ME
THEN I TOOK OUT MY GUN AS SHE WALKED OUT THE DOOR. BANG! ONE SHOT LEFT HER DEAD ON THE FLOOR
KISSED ME AND SAID GOODBYE
GOODBYE
GOODBYE
OSCAR WAS EXTREMELY ABRUPT WITH ME JUST NOW
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM?
Slap
DON'T GO IN THAT ROOM. YOUR MOTHER'S DEAD."
BANG! ONE SHOT LEFT HER DEAD ON THE FLOOR!
WHO'S THERE? IF YOU DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE, I'LL COME OVER AND SLAP YOU!
THAT PEST!
ANTE WAS THERE TOO. HE PASSED ME AS HE RAN OFF.
SORRY, I THOUGHT IT WAS ANTE. I DON'T MIND IF IT'S YOU.
I GIVE UP
OH!

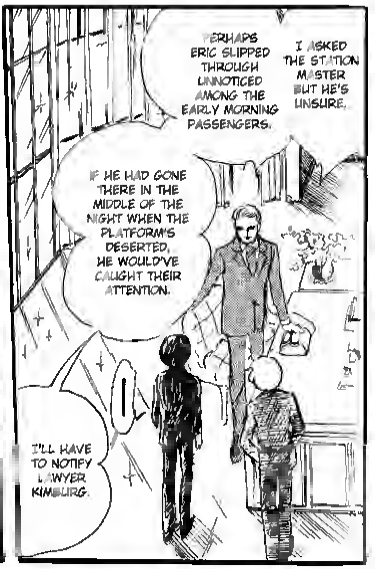
LOOKS LIKE HE'S LEFT ALREADY.
ANTE!
HE WORSHIPS YOU AS IF YOU WERE GOD HIMSELF.
THAT BRAT! I'LL CHASE HIM LATER
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...
UH HUH... MY MOOD'S A BIT LOW SINCE I FEEL BAD FOR ERIC...
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE IN A FOUL MOOD?
ERIC'S MOTHER HAS PASSED AWAY
EVEN THOUGH I HOLD THE JOKER... I'VE LOST TO A BOY WHO HARDLY EVEN KNEW HIM...
EVEN THOUGH I HAVE INSIGHT INTO JULI'S TRUE INTENTIONS EVEN THOUGH I'M THE ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS JULI BEST
I CAN'T GET HIM OUT OF JULI'S MIND
IT SEEMS I'VE LOST TO THOMAS WERNER

AH
DID I END UP FALLING ASLEEP AT MY DESK?
dong
ERIC
wham
HIS COAT'S GONE!
I DIDN'T REALIZE ERIC HAD LEFT!


OR PARIS?
PERHAPS HE'S GONE BACK TO KOELN

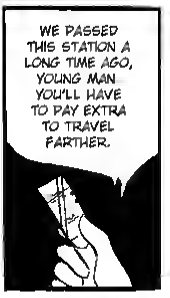

HE'D HAVE NO BUSINESS WITH HIS GUARDIAN. ALL ALONG HE'S WANTED TO RETURN HOME.

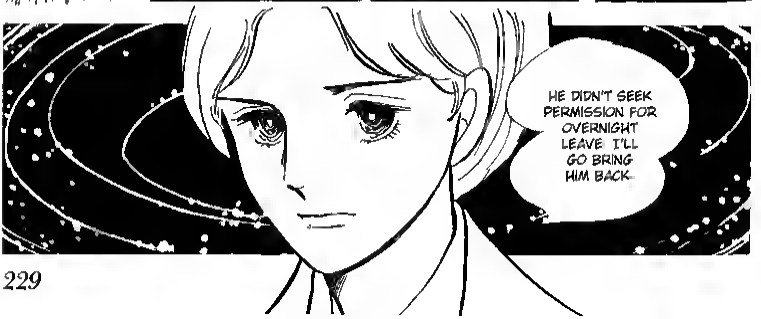
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
Morning!
chatter
chatter
Morning!


PERHAPS ERIC SLIPPED THROUGH UNNOTICED AMONG THE EARLY MORNING PASSENGERS.
I ASKED THE STATION MASTER BUT HE'S UNSURE.
IF HE HAD GONE THERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WHEN THE PLATFORM'S DESERTED, HE WOULD'VE CAUGHT THEIR ATTENTION.
I'LL HAVE TO NOTIFY LAWYER KIMBURG.

RATTLE
KOELN

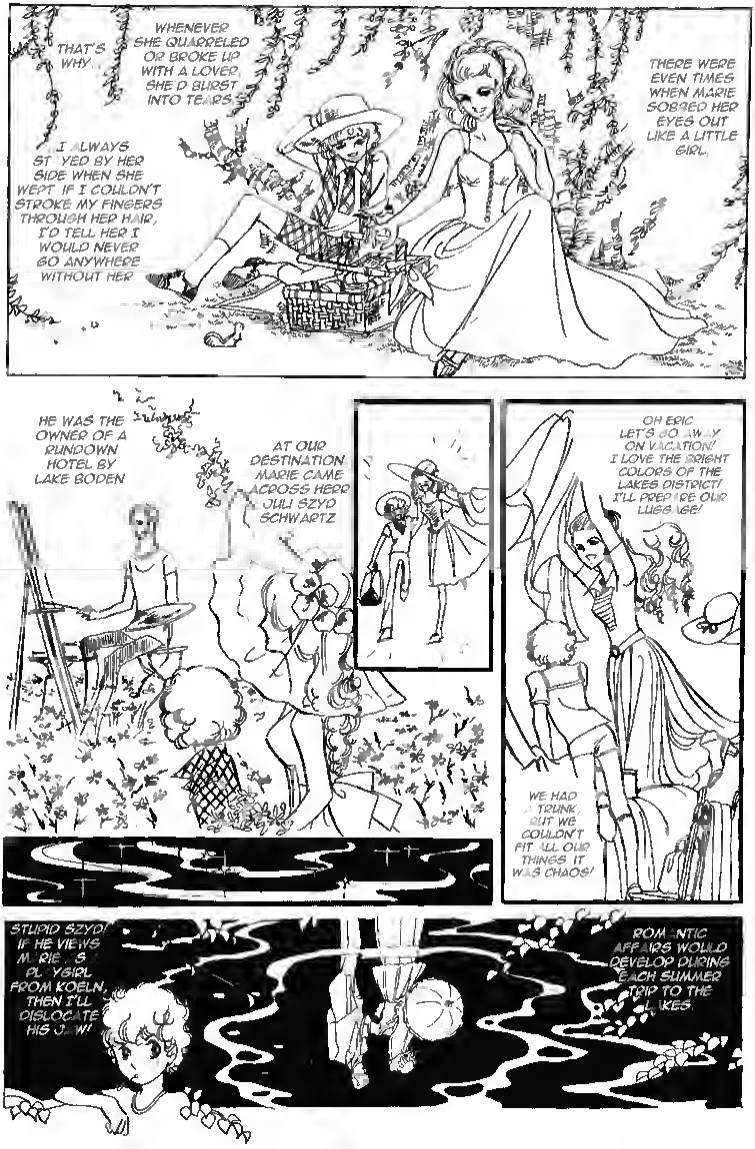
HOW MUCH?
WHERE ARE YOU HEADED?


WE PASSED THIS STATION A LONG TIME AGO, YOUNG MAN YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY EXTRA TO TRAVEL FARTHER.

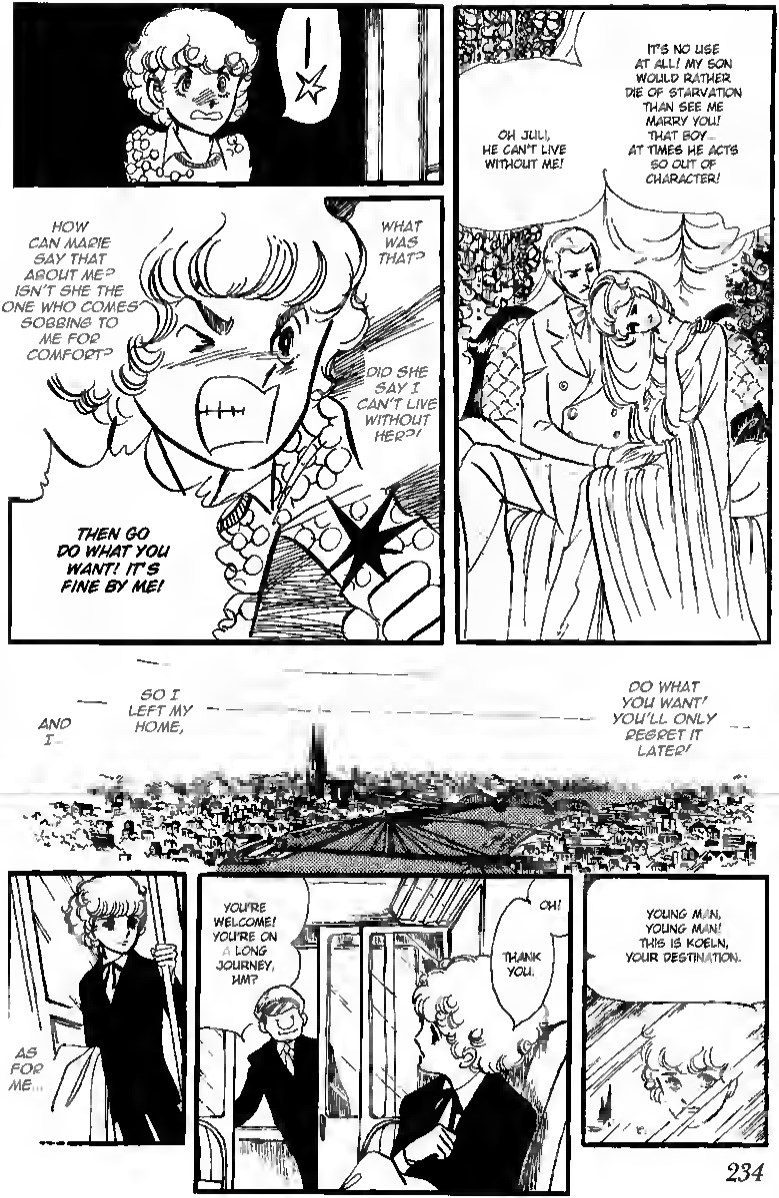

HE DIDN'T SEEK PERMISSION FOR OVERNIGHT LEAVE. I'LL GO BRING HIM BACK.

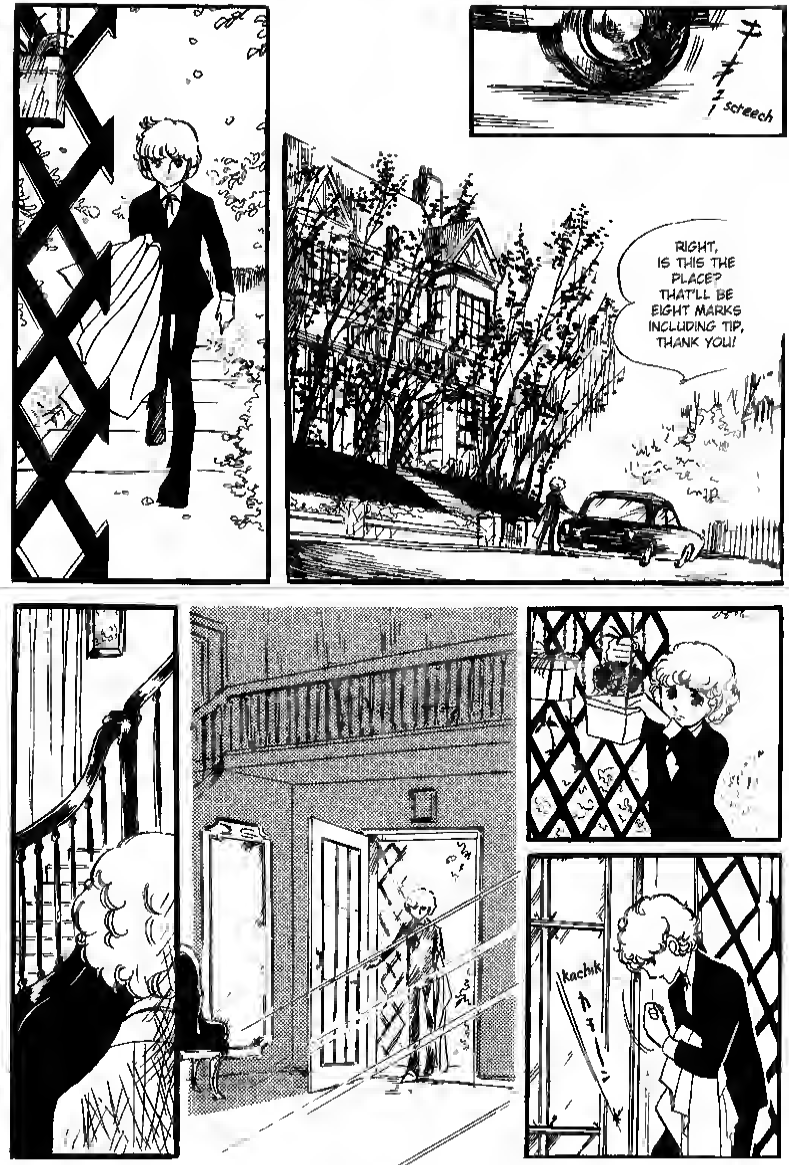
THE INCESSANT CALLS FROM HER LOVERS DEPRESSED ME. FOR THEY WERE NEARLY ALL DESPICABLE MEN
SHE WAS A FLOWER IN FULL BLOOM A RADIANT BEAUTY
MARIE
EARLY AUTUMN
IT WAS
MARIE WAS WEEPING BEFORE GRANDMA'S GRAVE
OH ERIC, GRANDMA HAS PASSED AWAY. SHE'S GONE UP TO HEAVEN, ERIC
I'LL BE THE ONE AND ONLY MASTER OF THE HOUSE-HOLD!
BUT I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU!
CALL ME BY MY TITLE NOT MY FIRST NAME ALONE!

YOU'LL GROW UP AND FALL IN LOVE
FOR THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS TO ALL CHILDREN
THEN I'LL BE ON MY OWN AGAIN, HERR ERIC
I WON'T LEAVE YOU! I WON'T GROW UP EITHER!
YOU'RE NOT ALONE I'M HERE MAMA
BUT YOU TOO WILL LEAVE ME BEHIND SOMEDAY
WAS THAT WHY SHE WAS SO UPSET? BUT I WAS TOO YOUNG TO WEEP OVER OLD MEMORIES
AT THE TIME, I DID UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF DEATH
PLEASE DON'T CRY! YOU'RE NOT ALONE!
I'M HERE BY YOUR SIDE!
THEN DON'T USE A TITLE! JUST CALL ME BY MY NAME, THE SAME WAY GRANDMA DID!
SHE WAS A FLOWER IN FULL BLOOM A RADIANT BEAUTY
THINKING THAT I SAID SUCH LOVING WORDS IN JEST TO EVERYONE I LIKED MARIE LAUGHED AT ME
THAT'S WHEN I FIRST MADE MY VOW TO HER
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE
MARIE! MAMA MARIE!


THAT'S WHY...
WHENEVER SHE QUARRELED OR BROKE UP WITH A LOVER, SHE'D BURST INTO TEARS.
THERE WERE EVEN TIMES WHEN MARIE SOBBED HER EYES OUT LIKE A LITTLE GIRL.
...I ALWAYS STAYED BY HER SIDE WHEN SHE WEPT. IF I COULDN'T STROKE MY FINGERS THROUGH HER HAIR, I'D TELL HER I WOULD NEVER GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT HER
HE WAS THE OWNER OF A RUNDOWN HOTEL BY LAKE BODEN
AT OUR DESTINATION MARIE CAME ACROSS HERR JULI SZYD SCHWARTZ
OH ERIC LET'S GO AWAY ON VACATION! I LOVE THE BRIGHT COLORS OF THE LAKES DISTRICT! I'LL PREPARE OUR LUGGAGE!
WE HAD A TRUNK, BUT WE COULDN'T FIT ALL OUR THINGS. IT WAS CHAOS!
STUPID SZYD! IF HE VIEWS MARIE AS A PLAYGIRL FROM KOELN, THEN I'LL DISLOCATE HIS JAW!
ROMANTIC AFFAIRS WOULD DEVELOP DURING EACH SUMMER TRIP TO THE LAKES.

IN SPITE OF THIS SHE DIDN'T GIVE UP HER OTHER BOYFRIENDS SO HE SHUT THE HOTEL AND RUSHED TO KOELN COVERED IN SNOW HE APPEARED LIKE SANTA ON CHRISTMAS EVE!
SERVES THEM RIGHT! THEY WERE CAUGHT IN THE ACT!
HOPING TO BE RECONCILED WITH HER HE CAME AFTER MARIE IN THE SUMMER OF LAST YEAR WAS HER LOVER AT THE TIME MY FENCING INSTRUCTOR? IN ANY CASE THE THREE OF THEM HAD A BIG SHOWDOWN BY THE LAKE!
GOODNESS ME! I SPOKE IN ALL SERIOUSNESS, YOU KNOW
TO MARIE? YOU'RE JOKING, AREN'T YOU?
I'M THINKING ABOUT MARRIAGE
YOU DO APPROVE, DON'T YOU?
HE WOOED HER OVER MANY VISITS UNTIL FINALLY LAST SUMMER
YOU MEN ARE ALL THE SAME!
DON'T SPEAK THAT WAY! YOUR ROMANCE WON'T LAST!
IF ONLY YOU WERE A BIT BETTER BEHAVED
FOOL! I HEAR YOUR ANSWER LOUD AND CLEAR
FINALLY MARIE GAVE IN
BOO HOO! BOO HOO!
I HELD FIRM AGAINST MARIE'S PLEAS FOR THREE DAYS
MARIE APPRECIATES ME MUSTACHE FACE!
I'LL SAY WHAT I LIKE TO YOU!
WHY SHOULD I BE BETTER BEHAVED?
NEVER! NEVER! NEVER!


!
OH JULI, HE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT ME!
IT'S NO USE AT ALL! MY SON WOULD RATHER DIE OF STARVATION THAN SEE ME MARRY YOU! THAT BOY— AT TIMES HE ACTS SO OUT OF CHARACTER!
WHAT WAS THAT?
HOW CAN MARIE SAY THAT ABOUT ME? ISN'T SHE THE ONE WHO COMES SOBBING TO ME FOR COMFORT?
DID SHE SAY I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT HER?!
THEN GO DO WHAT YOU WANT! IT'S FINE BY ME!
DO WHAT YOU WANT! YOU'LL ONLY REGRET IT LATER!
SO I LEFT MY HOME,
AND I—
AS FOR ME...
YOU'RE WELCOME! YOU'RE ON A LONG JOURNEY, HM?
OH! THANK YOU.
YOUNG MAN, YOUNG MAN! THIS IS KOELN, YOUR DESTINATION.

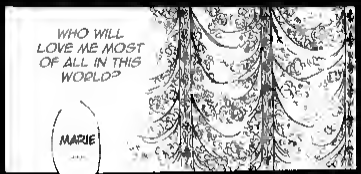

screech
RIGHT, IS THIS THE PLACE? THAT'LL BE EIGHT MARKS INCLUDING TIP, THANK YOU!
Kachik

BEST OF LUCK! WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN WHEN SUMMER COMES WHAT ABOUT YOUR LUGGAGE? OHH, WHAT A MESS!
kachik
I WILL, SO STOP BADGERING ME! I'LL DO AS I PLEASE!
SO YOU'LL GO TO SCHOOL, ERIC?
I THINK IT'S FOR THE BEST YOU'LL LEARN A LOT MORE IN YOUR TIME AT SCHOOL THAN YOU EVER WILL STAYING HERE WITH MARIE.
Sniff
SMILE FOR MAMA! WON'T YOU LET ME KISS YOU GOODBYE?
I DO LOVE YOU! YOU DO UNDERSTAND DON'T YOU?
topple
がたん

THEN I'D LET HER DO ANYTHING SHE WANTED!
IF I COULD SEE MARIE AGAIN
I WONDER WHY I WAS SO OPPOSED TO THE MARRIAGE

I WANTED TO TIE MARIE DOWN AND KEEP HER ALL TO MYSELF
BUT I WAS SO STUBBORN AT THE TIME

WHO WILL STROKE MY HAIR?


WHO WILL LOVE ME MOST OF ALL IN THIS WORLD?
MARIE ....

MARIE !
MARIE ....
MARIE !
MARIE ....
MARIE !
WHO WILL CALL ME BY MY FIRST NAME?

WHY DID I LONG SO DESPERATELY FOR HER LETTER TO ME?
HOW COULD I LET MYSELF BECOME SO DEPENDENT ON HER?
NOW, AT THIS MOMENT ...

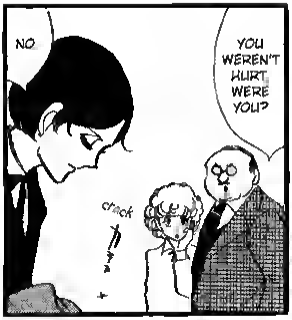
GOOD MORNING! DID YOU SLEEP WELL LAST NIGHT? WHAT'S THE TIME NOW?
WHO AM I? I'M ERIC.
ching
I DIALED A RANDOM PHONE NUMBER FOR FUN
YOU'RE CROSS NOW, AREN'T YOU? I JUST WANTED SOMEONE ELSE TO TALK TO
UH HUH, I DON'T KNOW YOU EITHER
NICE TALKING TO YOU GOODBYE
WHERE'S MY MAMA? SHE'S NOT HERE. MY MAMA DIED IN PARIS TWO WEEKS AGO
glop glop
toot

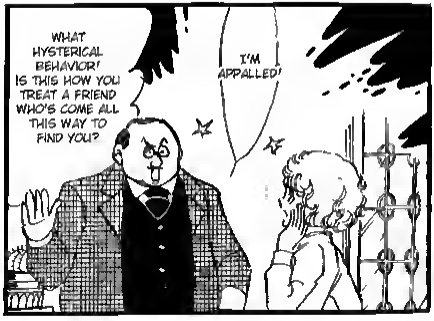
GOOD MORN-ING!
GOOD MORNING HERR KIMBURG
WHEN I SAW THE LIGHTS ON LAST NIGHT, I KNEW YOU WERE BACK HOME
ERIC! WON'T YOU OPEN THE DOOR FOR ME?
I DON'T NEED OVERNIGHT LEAVE!
I EXPLAINED THAT YOU HAD ARRIVED IN KOELN
THE SCHOOL RANG ME EARLIER TO SAY YOU WEREN'T GRANTED OVERNIGHT LEAVE
YOU CAN'T LIVE IN THIS HOUSE ANYMORE BECAUSE IT'S BEEN PUT UP FOR SALE. I BELIEVE FRAU MARIE TRANSFERRED THE DEED OF THIS HOUSE TO HER FORMER HUSBAND'S FAMILY
ERIC,
I WON'T DO ANYTHING I'LL JUST STAY HERE
I LEFT SCHOOL FOR GOOD HERE. HAVE SOME TEA.
LEFT FOR GOOD? SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

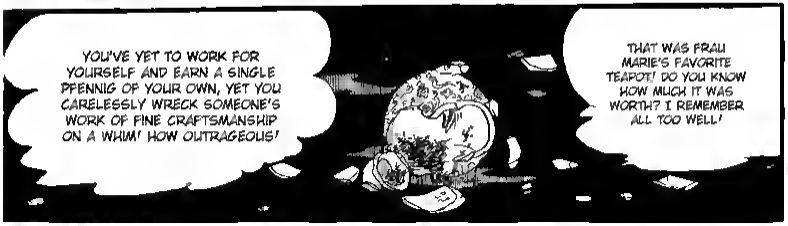
I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN THIS HOUSE! THIS IS MY HOUSE!
WHAT CAN AN OUTSIDER LIKE YOU SAY TO THAT?
THIS HOUSE BELONGS TO MARIE AND ME... MARIE AND ME ..
YOU HAVE NO RIGHTS AT ALL! IF YOU MEAN AN INHERITANCE YOU'RE FAR TOO YOUNG TO INHERIT THE PROPERTY NOW
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?? I HAVE THE RIGHT...
ANYWAY, YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO LIVE ON YOUR OWN
YOUR FATHER HAS REMARRIED AND LIVES THERE NOW.
YOU WERE BORN IN HAMBURG, NOT HERE.
A YEAR AFTER YOU WERE BORN YOUR PARENTS DIVORCED. KOELN IS THE HOME OF MARIE'S FAMILY
WHAT'S THE MATTER? DIDN'T FRAU MARIE TELL YOU ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR FATHER?
MY... FATHER ?

IT COMES DOWN TO A CHOICE BETWEEN TWO FAMILIES
dong
THE DOORBELL IS RINGING SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE HAS ARRIVED
AS TO WHO WILL TAKE OVER YOUR CARE...
SINCE YOU'RE STILL A MINOR, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE A GUARDIAN TO LOOK AFTER YOUR INTERESTS. I SUPPOSE IT COMES DOWN TO A CHOICE BETWEEN TWO FAMILIES - EITHER THAT OF HERR SCHWARTZ OR HERR BRAUN, YOUR NATURAL FATHER...
BUT MARIE... MARIE TOLD ME NOTHING!
I'LL BRIEFLY EXPLAIN THIS TO YOU. YOU NEED TO REALIZE THAT, AS YOUR LAWYER, THIS SITUATION ISN'T EASY FOR ME EITHER
YES, I'M FROM SCHLOTTERBETZ I'VE COME FOR ERIC
WHO MIGHT YOU BE? DO YOU KNOW ERIC?
GOOD MORNING. SIR. ARE YOU HERR KIMBURG?
kachak
SO YOU CAME ON THE OVERNIGHT TRAIN AS SOON YOU RECEIVED MY CALL? WELL, I'M MOST GRATEFUL YOU'RE HERE.

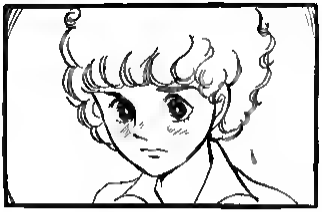
IT'S YOUR CLASSMATE ERIC! GOOD TIMING, ISN'T IT?
SMASH!
Slap
GET LOST! WHY DID YOU TURN UP HERE?
ERIC!

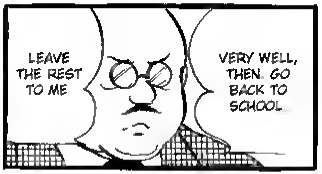




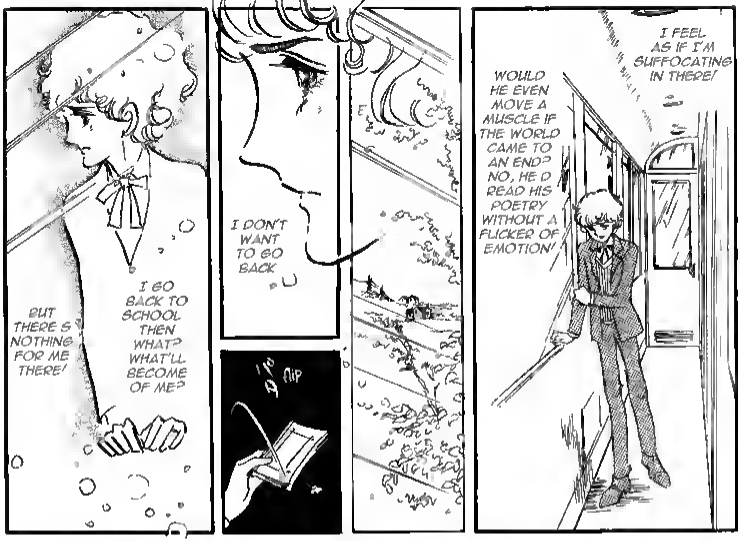

YOU'VE YET TO WORK FOR YOURSELF AND EARN A SINGLE PFENNIG OF YOUR OWN, YET YOU CARELESSLY WRECK SOMEONE'S WORK OF FINE CRAFTSMANSHIP ON A WHIM! HOW OUTRAGEOUS!
THAT WAS FRAU MARIE'S FAVORITE TEAPOT! DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH IT WAS WORTH? I REMEMBER ALL TOO WELL!

PFENNIG: German penny





WHERE'S OSCAR?
WHAT A STRESSFUL AND MISERABLE MORNING
HE'S AT SCHOOL HE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU
SLAM
A BOOK OF POEMS TO PASS THE TIME
WHAT'S THAT YOU'VE GOT?
thud


I FEEL AS IF I'M SUFFOCATING IN THERE!
WOULD HE EVEN MOVE A MUSCLE IF THE WORLD CAME TO AN END? NO, HE'D READ HIS POETRY WITHOUT A FLICKER OF EMOTION!
I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK
I GO BACK TO SCHOOL THEN WHAT? WHAT'LL BECOME OF ME?
BUT THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME THERE!

PERHAPS HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME AS WELL
AND EVEN TOOK THE OVERNIGHT TRAIN
YET HE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO PICK ME UP

GIESSEN IN ANOTHER FIVE MINUTES! LAST STOP!
GIESSEN! LAST STOP!
GIESSEN?
DID YOU EXPECT TO GET OFF AT KARLSRUHE?
NO, I'M AFRAID THIS TRAIN DOESN'T GO ANYWHERE NEAR KARLSRUHE.
LAST STOP! LAST STOP! DISEMBARK! PLEASE!
IS THIS GIESSEN? I DON'T KNOW THIS PLACE AT ALL!
IT'S MY FIRST TIME HERE TOO. APPARENTLY THESE TRAINS SWITCH OVER TO THE KOBLENZ LINE.
BUT I SUPPOSE WE CAN CATCH A NORMAL TRAIN BOUND FOR FRANKFURT FROM HERE.
STAY HERE. I'LL GO CHECK.
TICKETS
CHECK
TICK
TICK
TICK

WHY, WHAT'S THE MATTER? ARE YOU LOST, BOY? WHAT LOVELY CURLS YOU HAVE!
tap
THIS IS A BAD OMEN
HM?
HEY, I KNOW THIS TIE! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! ARE YOU FROM SCHLOTTERBETZ?
?
I AM! HOW DO YOU KNOW?
ERIC!
WE'RE JUST IN TIME! A TRAIN BOUND FOR FRANKFURT IS ABOUT TO DEPART WE'VE GOT TO HURRY

WELL...
LONG TIME NO SEE...
SEIFRIET!
JULI...
JULI?
.....
IT WAS A MOST ENJOYABLE EVENING, WASN'T IT, JULLISMOLE?

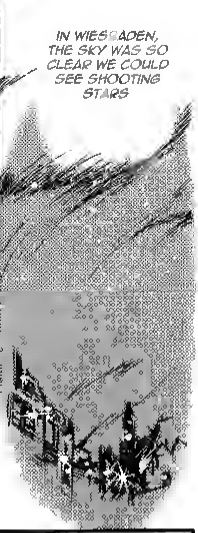
SLAM
JULI, DID YOU KNOW THAT FELLOW JUST NOW?
DID YOU KNOW HIM?
IS HE A GRADUATE OF SCHLOTTERBETZ?
BACK THERE HE SAID
IT'S PRIVATE! IT'S NOT YOUR PROBLEM!

IT WAS DRIZZLING WITH RAIN BY THE TIME WE REACHED FRANKFURT IT WAS ALREADY FIVE O'CLOCK
THE TRAIN BOUND FOR KARLSRUHE IS DELAYED BECAUSE OF A FREIGHT TRAIN DERAILMENT IT MIGHT TAKE A LONG TIME TO ARRIVE.
HOW COME?
IT'LL BE A THREE-HOUR WAIT
I'VE CALLED THE SCHOOL AND MY HOME TO LET THEM KNOW
I SEE
MY FAMILY LIVES IN WIESBADEN, JUST WEST OF FRANKFURT
YOUR HOME?

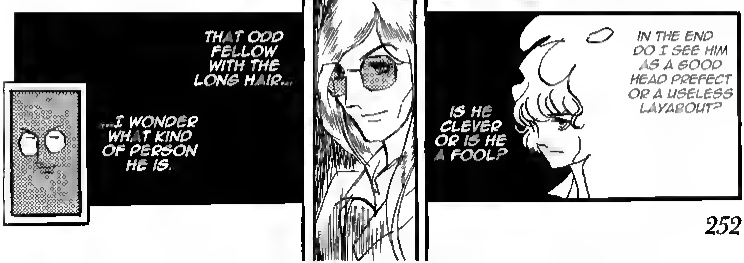
I DON'T WANT TO GO
IT'S BEST IF WE STAY THERE OVERNIGHT. THEN RETURN TO SCHOOL TOMORROW. THERE'S A TRAIN BOUND FOR WIESBADEN IN FIFTEEN MINUTES. WE'LL BE THERE IN AN HOUR.
I SAID I DON'T WANT TO GO!
I'VE ALREADY CALLED SO MY MOTHER WILL BE EXPECTING US...
THERE'S NO OTHER OPTION.
...AND YOU'RE A BIT UPSET ABOUT COMING BACK
IT'S BAD MANNERS... TO SHOUT HERE IN PUBLIC. I FORGOT THAT YOU WERE MOURNING THE DEATH OF YOUR MOTHER...
I CAN'T STAND YOU!
WHY?
BUT WON'T YOU PLEASE COME AND STAY OVERNIGHT AT MY HOME, ERIC?

HIS EYES

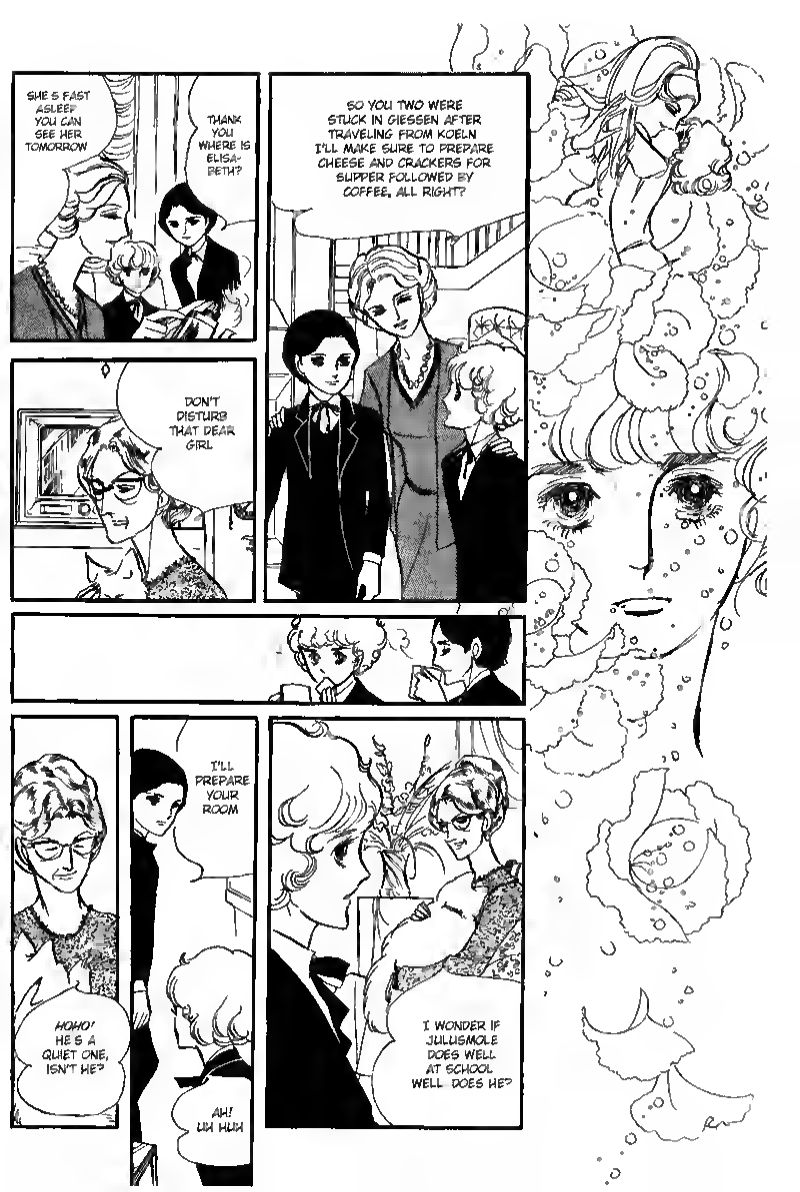
THERE WERE NO MORE BUSES, SO WE HAD TO WALK FROM THE STATION.
THE STREET LAMPS SWAYED TO AND FRO.


IN WIESBADEN, THE SKY WAS SO CLEAR WE COULD SEE SHOOTING STARS

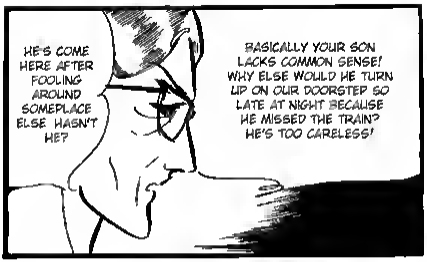
...THEN WHEN HE LOST HIS TEMPER, HE MADE MY HAIR STAND UP ON END
I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT JULI AT ALL
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT HE BEHAVED IN A RIGIDLY FORMAL MANNER.
HE'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO LOOKS FAVORABLY UPON THOSE WHO PUT IN A LOT OF EFFORT WITHOUT SLACKING OFF.

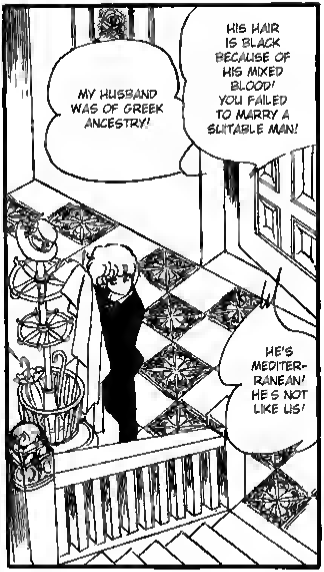

THAT ODD FELLOW WITH THE LONG HAIR...
...I WONDER WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE IS.
IS HE CLEVER OR IS HE A FOOL?
IN THE END DO I SEE HIM AS A GOOD HEAD PREFECT OR A USELESS LAYABOUT?

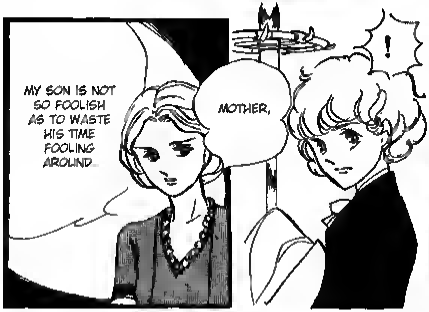
I'M HOME, GRANDMA PARDON THE LATENESS OF OUR ARRIVAL
COME RIGHT IN, ERIC
OH! WELCOME BACK, JULLISMOLE BUT YOU'RE LATE
TO stare
YES I HEARD WELL THEN, DO COME INSIDE
I DID TELL MOTHER ABOUT HIM WHEN I RANG EARLIER
WELCOME HOME
I'M BACK, MOTHER
JILLIS-MOLE!

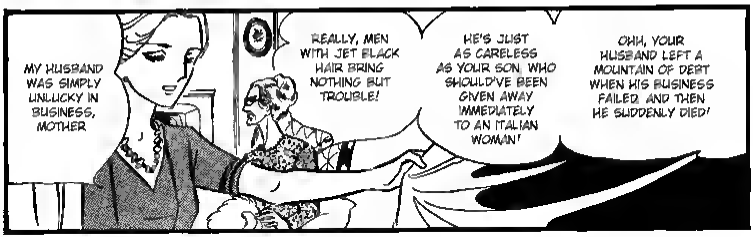

SHE'S FAST ASLEEP YOU CAN SEE HER TOMORROW
THANK YOU WHERE IS ELISABETH?
SO YOU TWO WERE STUCK IN GIESSEN AFTER TRAVELING FROM KOELN I'LL MAKE SURE TO PREPARE CHEESE AND CRACKERS FOR SUPPER FOLLOWED BY COFFEE, ALL RIGHT?
DON'T DISTURB THAT DEAR GIRL
I'LL PREPARE YOUR ROOM
HOHO! HE'S A QUIET ONE, ISN'T HE?
AH! UH HUH
I WONDER IF JULLISMOLE DOES WELL AT SCHOOL WELL DOES HE?

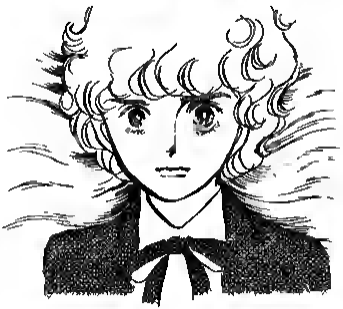
stare
ｼﾞｰ
SLEEP WELL, GRANDMA
WASN'T HE SUCH AN ADORABLE CHILD, CHERYL! HE MUST BE FROM A FINE FAMILY, PLUS HE HAS TAWNY EYES AND LIGHT BROWN HAIR! DON'T YOU AGREE, CHERYL? HE WAS A LITTLE ILL-MANNERED THOUGH
AHH... I WONDER WHERE I LEFT MY COAT...
IN THE HALL-WAY?
WOULDN'T IT BE NICE TO HAVE A BOY LIKE THAT IN OUR FAMILY!
RIGHT I'LL FETCH IT AND BE RIGHT BACK
UGH! WHY DID YOUR SON END UP WITH BLACK HAIR?
JUUUSMOLE LOOKS MORE AND MORE LIKE AN ARABIAN FOREIGNER!
MY HUSBAND WAS BORN IN DEUTSCHLAND, MOTHER...


HE'S COME HERE AFTER FOOLING AROUND SOMEPLACE ELSE. HASN'T HE?
BASICALLY YOUR SON LACKS COMMON SENSE! WHY ELSE WOULD HE TURN UP ON OUR DOORSTEP SO LATE AT NIGHT BECAUSE HE MISSED THE TRAIN? HE'S TOO CARELESS!


MY HUSBAND WAS OF GREEK ANCESTRY!
HIS HAIR IS BLACK BECAUSE OF HIS MIXED BLOOD! YOU FAILED TO MARRY A SUITABLE MAN!
HE'S MEDITERRANEAN! HE'S NOT LIKE US!


MY SON IS NOT SO FOOLISH AS TO WASTE HIS TIME FOOLING AROUND
MOTHER,
!

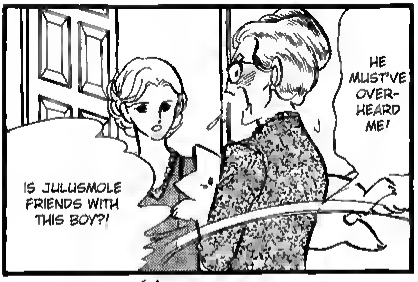

MY HUSBAND WAS SIMPLY UNLUCKY IN BUSINESS, MOTHER
REALLY, MEN WITH JET BLACK HAIR BRING NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!
HE'S JUST AS CARELESS AS YOUR SON. WHO SHOULD'VE BEEN GIVEN AWAY IMMEDIATELY TO AN ITALIAN WOMAN!
OHH, YOUR HUSBAND LEFT A MOUNTAIN OF DEBT WHEN HIS BUSINESS FAILED, AND THEN HE SUDDENLY DIED!



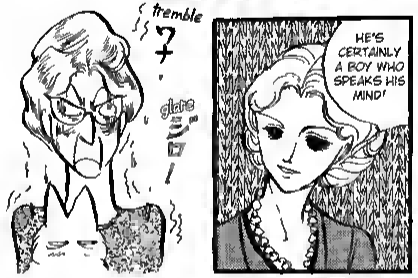
OHH, CHERYL! ELISABETH IS A FINE GIRL FOR SHE HAS BLONDE HAIR!

THEN WHAT ABOUT ELISABETH? SHE'S HIS DAUGHTER AS WELL

DID YOU FIND YOUR COAT?
SHE HAS BLONDE HAIR AND BLUE EYES JUST LIKE ME! SHE'S A TRUE NATIVE OF DEUTSCHLAND!
stomp stomp
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS YOUR HOME? YOU SURE THEY'RE YOUR FAMILY?
YES THEY ARE
GET LOST, YOU HORRID OLD HAG!
HOW DARE SHE TALK ABOUT YOU LIKE THAT!
SO...SO... THAT WOMAN REALLY IS YOUR GRANDMOTHER?
ERIC!
ERIC!
WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?
YOU'RE NOT IN BED YET, JULLISMOLE
MY WORD, SOON IT WILL BE A NEW DAY

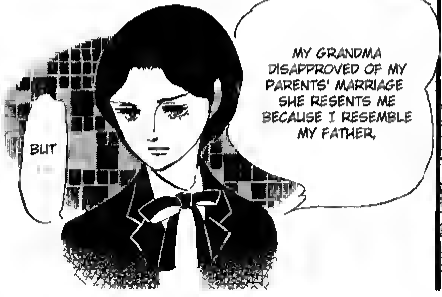

HE MUST'VE OVER-HEARD ME!
IS JULUSMOLE FRIENDS WITH THIS BOY?!

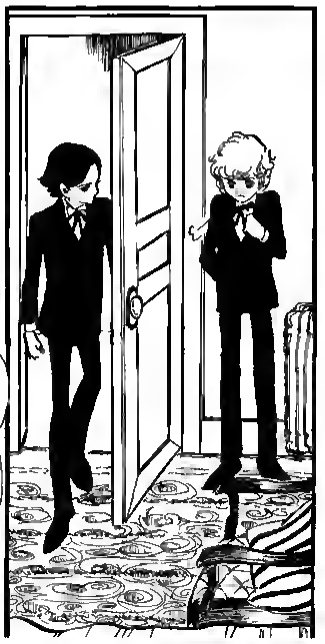
stomp stomp stomp
ERIC!
MY OH MY!
MY APOLOGIES, GRANDMA!


tremble
glare
HE'S CERTAINLY A BOY WHO SPEAKS HIS MIND!

YOU MUSTN'T GET SO ANGRY...
clack
SHE'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS

I'D NEVER PUT UP WITH IT! I'D LEAVE THIS FAMILY!
HUH? ALWAYS?

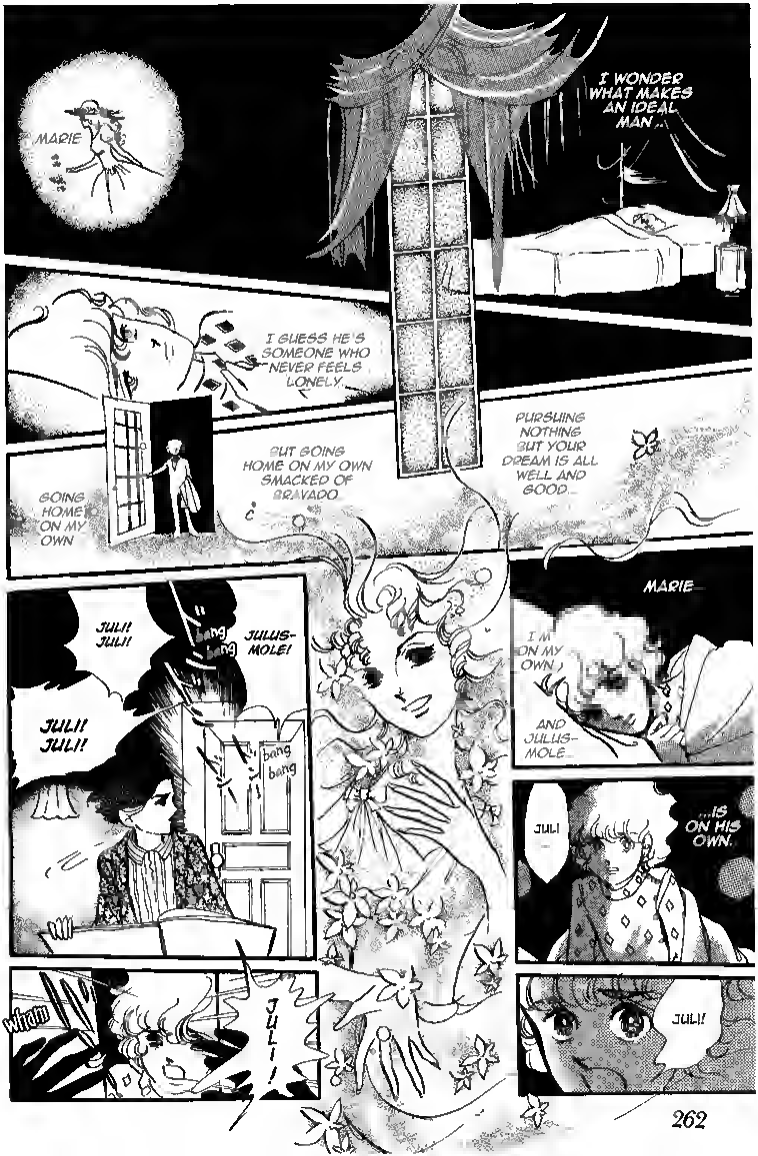

BUT...
MY GRANDMA DISAPPROVED OF MY PARENTS' MARRIAGE SHE RESENTS ME BECAUSE I RESEMBLE MY FATHER.

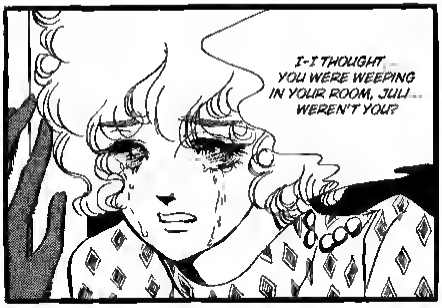


SHE'S A HORRID OLD HAG, AND YOU SHOULD YELL AT HER TOO!
INDEBTED TO HER?! HOW CAN YOU EVEN PUT UP WITH HER?
MY MOTHER AND I ARE EXTREMELY INDEBTED TO HER AS WELL
IF I CAN REPAY MY FATHER'S DEBTS IN FULL AND TAKE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OFF MY GRANDMA, THEN SHE'LL CHANGE HER MIND ABOUT HIM AND ME
INSTEAD, I'LL ACHIEVE SUCCESS WHEN I GROW UP
THAT WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING.
THOSE SIX TRIBES BECAME THE FOUNDATION OF DEUTSCHLAND
SAXON SCHWABEN, BAYERN FRIESLAND FRANKEN AND THUERINGEN
WHEN I MET HER FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER MY FATHER'S DEATH I SAW THE WAY SHE LOOKED AT ME
MY FATHER WASN'T FROM ANY OF THEM.
EVERY-ONE
WHO'S PREJU-DICED LIKE THAT?
EVEN IF THERE'S A PREJUDICE HERE IN NORTHERN EUROPE AGAINST THOSE FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN, THE BEST OPTION FOR ME IS TO BIDE MY TIME AND WAIT.
SO I INTEND TO MAKE SURE THAT I BECOME SUCCESSFUL.

BECAUSE OF THE WAY SHE AND OTHERS VIEWED ME
I DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT BEING RUDE AND TALKING BACK TO MY ELDERS. SO I BECAME A VERY OBEDIENT CHILD.
WHEN I WAS SMALL, I WAS FAIRLY SIMPLE
THE COUNTRIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ARE ADORED AND DESPISED FOR THEIR IDLE WAY OF LIFE WITH THEIR WARM WATER, BRILLIANT BLOSSOMS AND PUTRID STENCH OF DECAY IN SUMMER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? BUT I'VE HAD TEACHERS WHO CAME FROM PLACES LIKE MOROCCO AND SPAIN!
NATURALLY, I PUT IN A LOT OF EFFORT, AND I'LL NEVER BLEMISH MY REPUTATION.
SO TO MEET THE STANDARDS OF A GOOD BOY, AND A TRUE NATIVE OF DEUTSCHLAND...
I'LL BE WHATEVER THEY WANT, AND WALK TOWARDS THE LIGHT.
...
...AND IT'S WITHIN MY REACH
I'LL BE EDUCATED RESOURCEFUL, A PERSON OF INTEGRITY
...WHO'S RESPECTED BY MY PEERS IN OTHER WORDS, AN IDEAL MAN MUCH LIKE MY FATHER
THAT'S MY DREAM
creak
YOUR PAJAMAS ARE HERE, NEW BOY.
GOOD NIGHT

JULIUSMOLE'S EXPRESSION REMINDED ME OF A FACE I'D SEEN ON A CHURCH FRESCO.
I'M NOT A FOREIGNER, SO I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW JULI FEELS
NOW WHO COULD IT BE? AN ANGEL FROM THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE PERIOD!


MARIE
I WONDER WHAT MAKES AN IDEAL MAN...
I GUESS HE'S SOMEONE WHO NEVER FEELS LONELY.
GOING HOME ON MY OWN
BUT GOING HOME ON MY OWN SMACKED OF BRAVADO.
PURSUING NOTHING BUT YOUR DREAM IS ALL WELL AND GOOD...
MARIE...
I'M ON MY OWN,
AND JULIUS-MOLE...
JULI! JULI!
bang bang
JULIUS-MOLE!
JULI! JULI!
bang bang
JULI
...IS ON HIS OWN.
Wham
JULI!
JULI!


I-I THOUGHT... YOU WERE WEEPING IN YOUR ROOM, JULI... WEREN'T YOU?

WHAT'S WRONG? IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!

MM...
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE IN TEARS LIKE THIS? ARE YOU UPSET ON MY BEHALF?

YOU FELT LONELY...
...BUT I'LL BE FINE IN THE MORNING

I'M SORRY I FELT LONELY BY MYSELF...

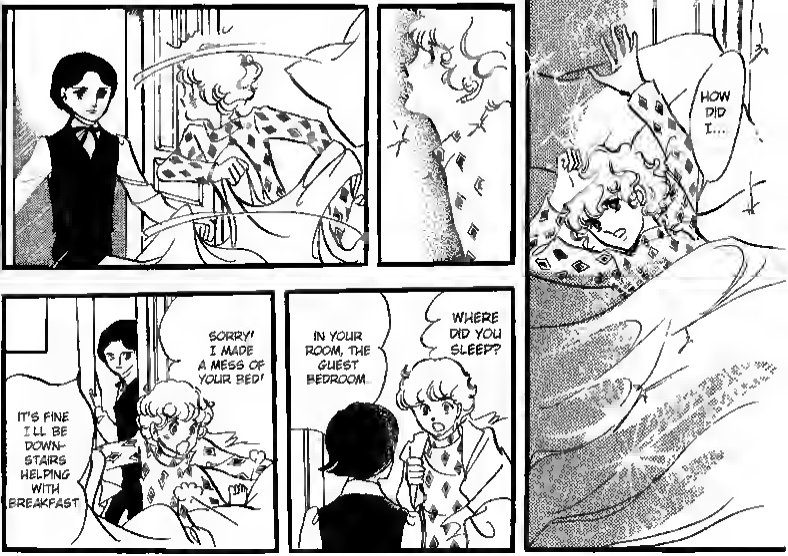
IT'S THE RAIN FROM FRANKFURT. IT'S CAUGHT UP TO US HERE.

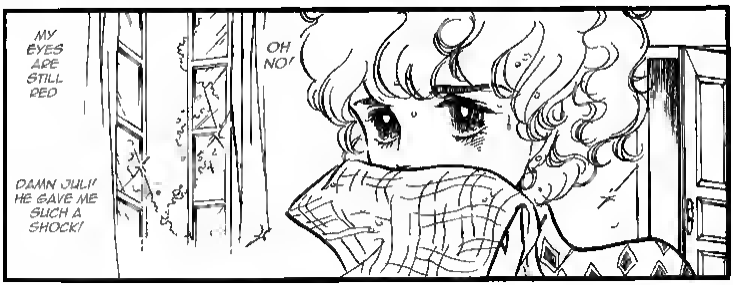
WOULD YOU LIKE A HOT CHOCO-LATE?

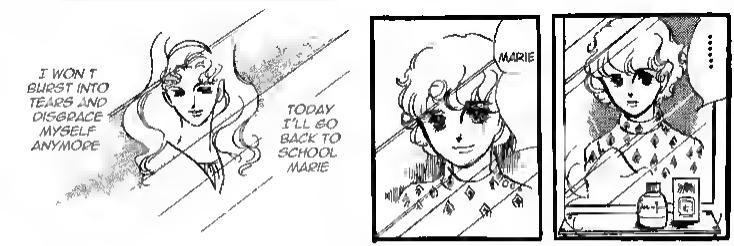
I COULD NEVER SAY SUCH WORDS IN PUBLIC EVEN IF MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT

I DON'T KNOW ANYONE ELSE QUITE LIKE HIM. HE REMINDS ME OF A LITTLE BOY
A LITTLE BOY WHO PASSED AWAY
HE LAUGHS HE CRIES, HE LOSES HIS TEMPER
HE CONSTANTLY WEARS HIS HEART ON HIS SLEEVE
HE'S NOT PUTTING ON AN ACT, EITHER
I REMIND YOU OF THOMAS, DON'T I?
DO YOU HATE ME? ARE YOU MAD AT ME?
DON'T THINK OF THAT NOW. YOUR MOTHER HAS JUST PASSED AWAY
NOT AT ALL
DID I DISTURB YOU BY KNOCKING ON YOUR DOOR SO LATE AT NIGHT?
I SPENT ALL OF YESTERDAY ALONE - ALONE IN MARIE'S BEDROOM
YOU MAY DETEST IT WHEN OTHERS FEEL SORRY FOR YOU BUT I APPRECIATE IT
YOU SEE. I BELIEVE SUCH SENTIMENTS ARISE OUT OF A GREAT SENSE OF COMPASSION

NEVER MIND.
THE NEXT MORNING I RANG A STRANGER I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW...
I... LOVED MARIE SO MUCH.
SORRY... I CAN'T STOP THESE TEARS
I WAS SURROUNDED BY THE THINGS SHE LEFT BEHIND...
GOWNS, BOTTLES OF NAIL POLISH, HAIRPINS, ...
JUST FOR TONIGHT...
I'LL BE AN ANGEL TO THIS POOR BOY JUST FOR TONIGHT
IS IT THOMAS WHO'S CRYING OR IS IT YOU, ERIC?


HOW DID I...
WHERE DID YOU SLEEP?
IN YOUR ROOM, THE GUEST BEDROOM.
SORRY! I MADE A MESS OF YOUR BED!
IT'S FINE I'LL BE DOWN-STAIRS HELPING WITH BREAKFAST


OH NO!
MY EYES ARE STILL RED
DAMN JULI! HE GAVE ME SUCH A SHOCK!


I WON'T BURST INTO TEARS AND DISGRACE MYSELF ANYMORE
TODAY I'LL GO BACK TO SCHOOL MARIE
MARIE
.....

SHE MUST BE ASLEEP HER BEDROOM DOOR IS STILL LOCKED.
WHERE IS GRAND-MA?
ELISA-BETH?
YES. NOW AND THEN
IS YOUR SISTER ILL?
OH, COULD YOU ALSO TAKE THE MILK?
YES, SHE'S AWAKE. BUT SHE'S STILL GOT A FEVER.
WHAT ABOUT ELISABETH'S BREAKFAST? I'LL TAKE IT UP TO HER. DOES SHE KNOW I'M HERE?
YES, I DID. HAVE YOU BEEN EATING WELL?
SO YOU ARRIVED LATE YESTERDAY, JUL?
JUL!!
THIS IS ERIC, A FRIEND OF MINE
!!!!!

THIS BOOK I WAS GIVEN AT CHURCH! I SAW YOU IN IT!
IN THE SCENE WITH THE HOLY WATER!
I... I KNOW YOU! I SAW YOU IN MY BOOK!
WHAT BOOK?
I SEE! IT'S A PICTURE OF CHRIST RECEIVING HIS BAPTISM.
SO WHERE AM I?
YOU ARE RIGHT!
AND THIS IS YOU!
THE WHITE DOVE IS ME!
THAT'S A DOVE.
WAIT! FIRST THIS IS ME!
LIE BACK DOWN, ELISABETH.
AND THIS ONE IS MA...
cough cough cough cough
AH!
THIS ANGEL LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE JULI!
AND THIS ONE'S JULI!

GOODBYE
GOOD-BYE
GOOD-BYE
NO SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE
WHEN WILL YOU NEXT COME BACK TO VISIT? THIS SUNDAY?
GOODBYE
GOODBYE
GOODBYE
GOODBYE
IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE MANY SISTERS LIKE HER!
SHE WAS SO CUTE
CAN YOU TAKE IT OFF?
MY RING IS LOOSE
WHAT ?
OH!
TOH!
OH
AHA! BEFORE IT WAS STUCK ON MY FINGER.

YOU'RE BEING NICE TO ME
HM
OTHERWISE THE RING WOULD STILL BE STUCK
BUT THAT'S GOOD IT MEANS YOUR FINGERS ARE MORE SLENDER, EVEN THOUGH THE REST OF YOU IS GROWING...
.....
JULI IS ACTUALLY BLUSHING!
HE'S BLUSHING!
THE NEXT STATION IS OURS

I THOUGHT THE EXACT SAME THING ON THE MORNING I DECIDED TO RETURN HOME I TOOK A TRAIN FROM THIS STATION THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY
SUCH DAZZLING SUNLIGHT!
YET NOW IT SEEMS SUCH A LONG TIME AGO
tap
tap
Hi!
OSCAR!
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE ON THE FIRST TRAIN FROM WIESBADEN!
MY INTUITION MUST BE GOOD! WELCOME BACK!
THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, OSCAR!
JULI ? YOU'RE SMILING!

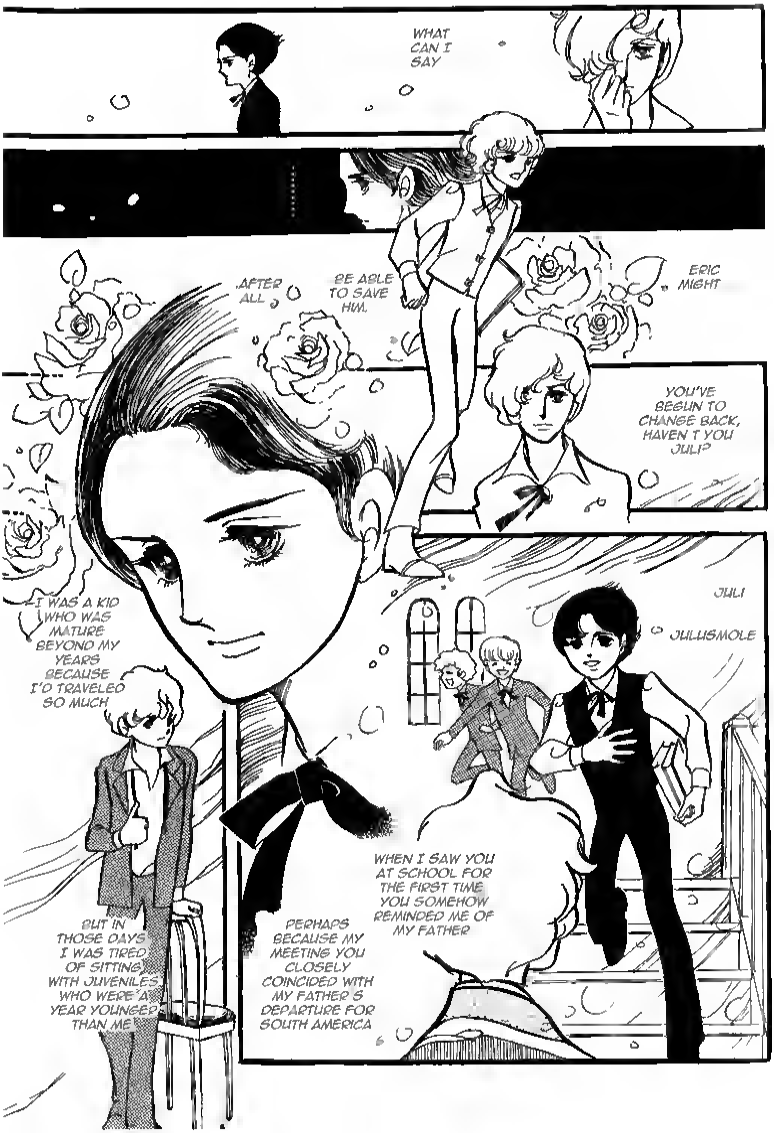
shff
whew
SO YOU HAD TO SIT FOR THREE CLASS TESTS WHILE I WAS AWAY? HOW AWFUL!
YES, AND WE ALL DID SO BADLY WE HAVE TO SIT FOR THEM AGAIN!
YOU CAN SIT FOR THE TESTS WITH US THIS TIME!
SO YOU SPENT THE NIGHT AT JILL'S PLACE BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T COME BACK IN TIME?
UH HUH.
ERIC!
HEY, ERIC!
HI!
NICE TO SEE YOU BACK!
WHERE'S ERIC? THE HEADMASTER WANTS TO SEE HIM!
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter

JULUSMOLE'S A LOT NICER THAN I THOUGHT.
YOU KNOW
OH, IT CAME LOOSE
HEY, ERIC! WHERE'S YOUR RING?
HERBERT, YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING AGAINST HIM, DON'T YOU?
I THINK HE'S A FINE FELLOW TOO!
I AGREE! I'VE BEEN SAYING THAT FROM THE START!
Oh Yes!
I FIND JULI A BIT TOO CONCEITED!
UH HUH I'M GLAD HE'S FEELING BETTER NOW
I BET LE BEBE BAWLED HIS EYES OUT BEFORE!
BUT HE REALLY WAS NICE TO ME, HERBERT.
NOT EXACTLY
I KNOW VERY WELL THAT HE DOES A GOOD JOB IN FULFILLING HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS HEAD PREFECT
SO WHAT IF HE WAS? WHY DO YOU THINK EVERYONE HAS TO LIKE JULI?!

ERIC, YOU NEED TO USE THE FORMULA TO COME UP WITH THE ANSWER
ARE YOU SURE?
IT'S EASY! X EQUALS 3 AND Y EQUALS 33!
I CAN IMAGINE
HOW UPSET LE REGE MUST BE TO LOSE A PARENT
WELL I KNEW ALL ALONG
UNLESS JULI CAN PUT THOMAS BEHIND HIM.
HE'LL REMAIN FIXATED ON ERIC
UH HUH... YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT HIM OSCAR... THE THINGS YOU TOLD ME ABOUT JULIUSMOLE WERE TRUE...
YES, FOR HE WAS NICE TO ME THE WHOLE TIME EXCEPT FOR THE ONE OCCASION HE SHOUTED AT ME IN GIESSEN STATION...
SO DID YOU CHANGE YOUR OPINION OF JULI DURING THE TRIP?

WE CAME ACROSS A MAN WHO WAS A BIT STRANGE
WAS HE A DRUNKARD?
NO, HE WASN'T.
THAT'S WHERE WE SWITCHED TRAINS
GIESSEN? THAT'S ON THE WAY TO KASSEL, ISN'T IT?
HE HAD A SMUG ATTITUDE AND HE HAD BLOND HAIR, A LONG CHIN AND HE WORE OCTAGONAL GLASSES WITH BLUE LENSES
IT SEEMED AS IF JULI AND THIS MAN KNEW EACH OTHER.
HE GREETED JULI WITH THE WORDS 'LONG TIME NO SEE'
I COULDN'T QUITE CATCH WHAT HE SAID AFTER THAT.
.....
THEY WERE GIVING EACH OTHER HOSTILE LOOKS.
ARE YOU LISTENING? I'VE NOW GOT TWO MEN VYING TO BE MY FATHER - TWO OF THEM! I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL I TURN TWENTY-SIX, BECAUSE THEN I'LL BE IN A POSITION WHERE I WON'T NEED EITHER OF THEM ANYMORE!
AH!
HEY, OSCAR!
HEY!
THEY MET SEIFRIET!
SEIFRIET!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE HEAD-MASTER?
MY ONLY RELATIVE HAS GONE ALL THE WAY TO SOUTH AMERICA
BUT HOW ARE YOU AN ORPHAN?
YES YES, I HEAR YOU BUT AREN'T YOU IN A BETTER POSITION THAN AN ORPHAN LIKE ME?
YOUR ORIGINAL FATHER WENT TO SOUTH AMERICA, AND SO YOU WERE PLACED WITH THIS OTHER OLD MAN WHO'S A LOT LIKE A FATHER TO YOU AND THEN—
HE'S YOUR FATHER NOW, ISN'T HE?
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO EXPLAINED IT TO ME
WHEN DID I EVER SAY—
AMEN TO THAT
FURTHERMORE YOU LOOK A LOT LIKE HIM! IT'S OBVIOUS ISN'T IT?
YOU MENTIONED IT WAS THE HEADMASTER WHO PROVIDED YOU WITH AN INDEFINITE INTEREST-FREE LOAN
AND THEN?
HE'S VERY OBSERVANT!
WHAT CAN I SAY?
YES, I'D LIKE TO KEEP IT THAT WAY
IS IT MEANT TO BE A SECRET, OSCAR? IF SO, I WON'T TELL ANYONE ELSE


WHAT CAN I SAY
AFTER ALL
BE ABLE TO SAVE HIM.
ERIC MIGHT
YOU'VE BEGUN TO CHANGE BACK, HAVEN T YOU JULI?
JULI
JULIUSMOLE
I WAS A KID WHO WAS MATURE BEYOND MY YEARS BECAUSE I'D TRAVELED SO MUCH
BUT IN THOSE DAYS I WAS TIRED OF SITTING WITH JUVENILES WHO WERE A YEAR YOUNGER THAN ME
PERHAPS BECAUSE MY MEETING YOU CLOSELY COINCIDED WITH MY FATHER S DEPARTURE FOR SOUTH AMERICA
WHEN I SAW YOU AT SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME YOU SOMEHOW REMINDED ME OF MY FATHER

LATER I THOUGHT OF YOU AS THE VERY EPITOME OF A RATIONAL THINKER.
HMM... I THOUGHT YOU WERE SO SMART
IN THE END, I REALIZED YOU WERE AN EMOTIONALLY TORTURED SOUL
YOU WERE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER PUPILS
ALTHOUGH WE HAD JUST MET AS HEAD PREFECT OF THE CLASS YOU WERE KIND AND HELPFUL TO ME.
YOU HAD A KNACK FOR WORKING WITH FIGURES AND COMING UP WITH NEW IDEAS
NOTHING WAS BEYOND YOU EVERYTHING YOU DID WAS FLAWLESS
BUT ONE DAY YOU DECIDED YOU WOULDN'T BEHAVE WITH SUCH CARELESS ABANDON
BACK WHEN WE SHARED A SIX-PERSON ROOM WE ALL MADE A BIG RUCKUS AND YOU JOINED IN AS WELL
THAT'S WHY I SPENT EACH DAY WITH YOU. I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO BE LIKE THAT
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I TOLD MYSELF.
"HEY, JULI! YOU'RE BEING TOO SHY!"
YOU HAD A TENDENCY TO BURDEN YOURSELF WITH GUILT AND ENGAGE IN SELF-RECRIMINATION
YOU NEVER DID ANYTHING THAT WOULD DAMAGE YOUR REPUTATION BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO DESPISE YOURSELF LATER FOR IT.
BUT YOUR OUTLOOK ONLY CHANGED A FRACTION...
DIDN'T IT?

THAT'S WHAT I TOLD MYSELF
JULI GRABBED HIM IN THE NICK OF TIME BUT LOST HIS BALANCE AND TUMBLED DOWN THE STAIRS INSTEAD
A BOY LOST HIS FOOTING WHILE FOOLING AROUND ON THE STAIRS
I RECALL THE TIME
NEVER MIND THAT! I'LL STUDY HERE, AND I'LL SCORE HIGHER THAN YOU IN NEXT WEEK'S PHYSICS TEST!
I DON'T WANT TO ATTRACT ANYONE'S PITY— BESIDES, THE BOY I SAVED MUST BE FEELING BAD ABOUT IT TOO—
YOU CAN'T GO OUT
FOR JULI, BEING INJURED WASN'T A PROBLEM. AS A PREFECT, HE WAS ALWAYS WILLING TO PUT THE WELFARE OF OTHERS AHEAD OF HIS OWN
WHEN NO ONE'S LOOKING, I'LL LIMP MY WAY AROUND.
JULI'S AMAZING! HE GOT TOP MARKS!
HE'S A FAST RUNNER TOO!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED

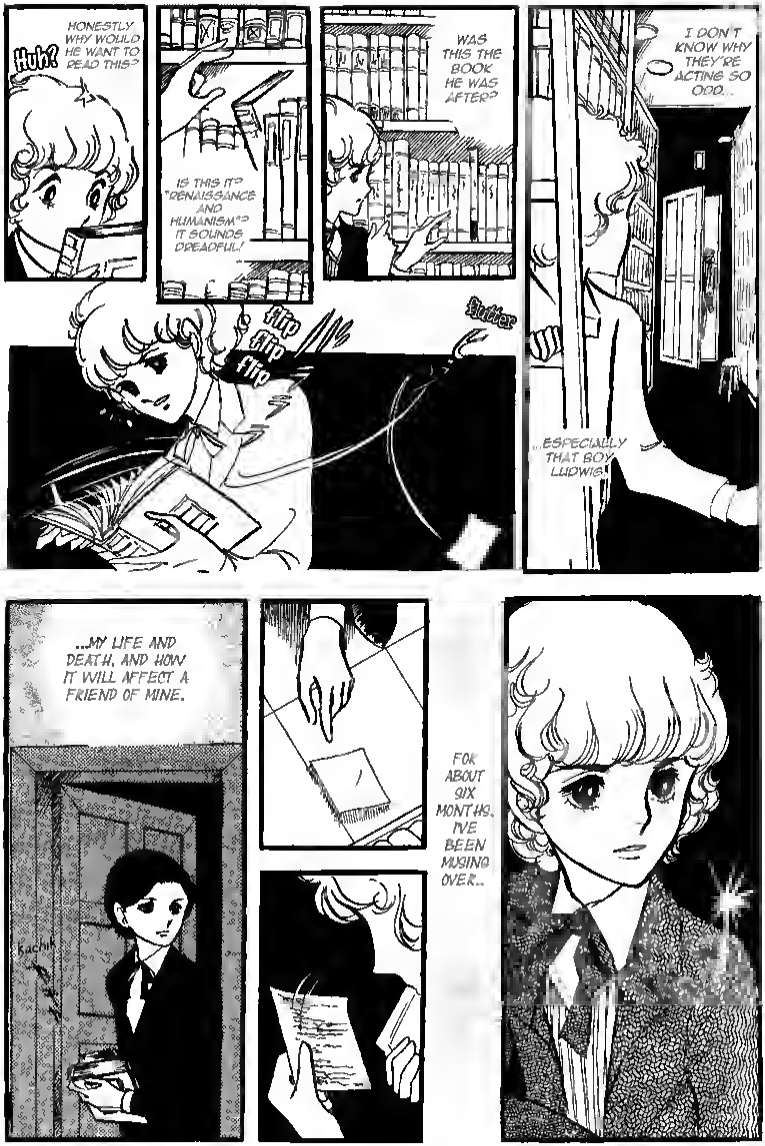
BUT THE WORLD SEEMED MUCH MORE BRIGHTER BACK IN THE OLD DAYS,
WHEN YOU TENDED TO IDEALIZE THE PEOPLE AND THINGS YOU LOVED
...I BEGAN TO WATCH OVER YOU.
I KNEW WHEN YOU CHANGED
FROM THAT DAY FOR
BUT NOW IT SEEMS THAT MY WISH FOR YOU...
AFTER THE DEATH OF THE ANGEL THOMAS WERNER YOU NO LONGER FELT AS IF YOU COULD LOOK ME IN THE EYE
THANKS TO ERIC
HAS COME TO PASS
NAMELY TO SEE YOU REDISCOVER A BRIGHT AND SHINING FUTURE
.....
HE PERFORMS THE READING SO WELL, DESPITE CLAIMING HE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GOD!
AT THE VERY LEAST, YOUR GAZE IS DRIFTING TOWARDS HIM.

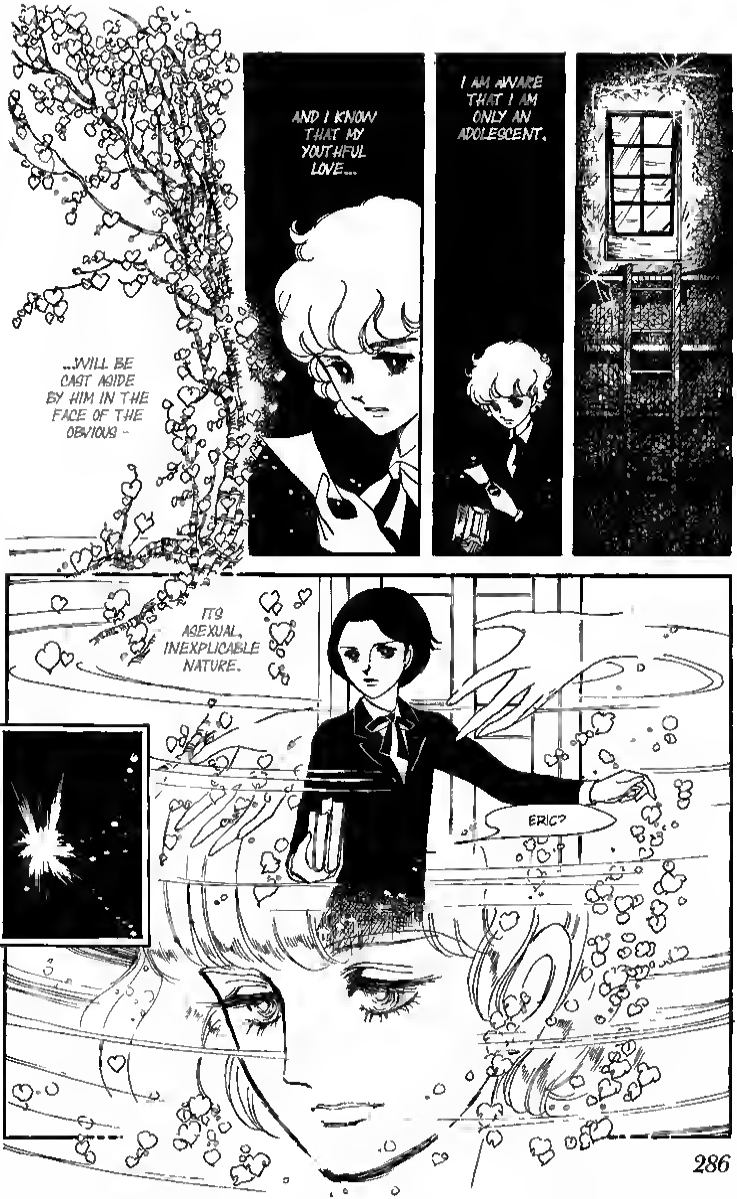
thunk
JULI! YOU LEFT BEHIND THIS BOOK YOU BORROWED FROM THE LIBRARY!
ARE YOU AFTER JULI?
THE HEAD PREFECT'S IN THE LIBRARY
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US FOR A GAME OF BRIDGE?
I'LL PLAY! I'LL PLAY FOR SURE! I'LL BE BACK SOON, SO KEEP A SPOT FOR ME!
clack
All right!
JULIS

OH! HERE'S THE BOOK YOU BORROWED!
YOU NEED TO RENEW IT!
HEY!
ARE YOU GOING TO BORROW SOMETHING NEW?
UM— BUT WE CAN'T BORROW TODAY, CAN WE?
IT'S FINE I'LL ALTER THE DATE FOR YOU.
WOW! THAT'S UNLIKE YOU, HEAD PREFECT!
I THINK JULI MIGHT BE A GREAT FELLOW AFTER ALL!
NOW THAT I'VE HAD TIME TO THINK IT OVER—
SURELY NOT
I'M GOING TO GET SOME VINYL TAPE
I'LL BE BACK

rustle
Ju...
HE'S NOT JUL!!
MARIE, THE STATUE OF MARY INSIDE THE CHAPEL REMINDS ME OF YOU
BUT SOMEHOW SEEING YOUR LIKENESS AT SCHOOL DISTURBS MY PEACE OF MIND A BIT
LUDWIG!
shove

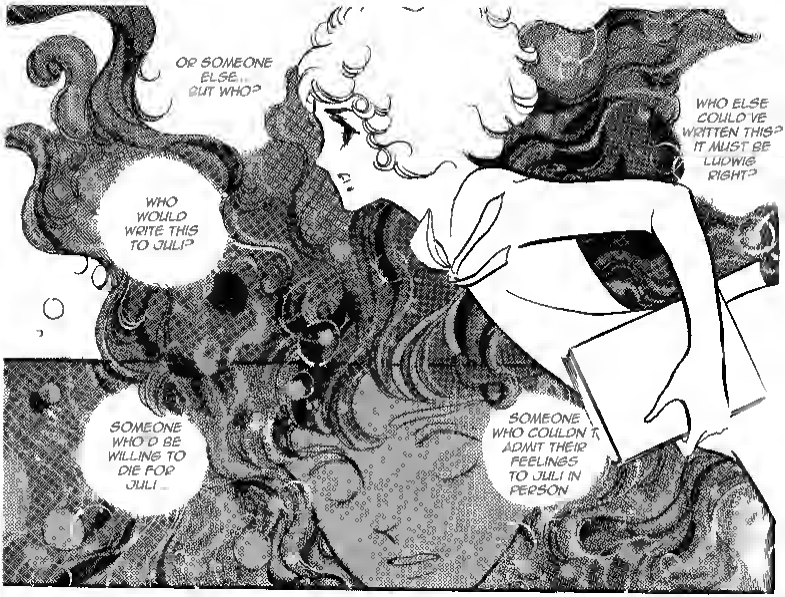
A-ARE YOU FOLLOW-ING ME?
NOTHING
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE? WE CAN'T BORROW BOOKS TODAY, YOU KNOW!
YOU'RE IN BIG TROUBLE! JOSE'S LOOKING FOR YOU!
ARE YOU UP THERE, ERIC? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
JUDGING BY THE WAY YOU BOTH LOOK, YOU TWO BETTER LEAVE! JULI'S IN CHARGE AND HE'S VERY PARTICULAR ABOUT WHO ENTERS THIS PLACE!
Let's go!
.....


HONESTLY, WHY WOULD HE WANT TO READ THIS?
Huh?
IS THIS IT? "RENAISSANCE AND HUMANISM"? IT SOUNDS DREADFUL!
WAS THIS THE BOOK HE WAS AFTER?
I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY'RE ACTING SO ODD...
...ESPECIALLY THAT BOY, LUDWIG.
Flip Flip Flip
Shudder
...MY LIFE AND DEATH, AND HOW IT WILL AFFECT A FRIEND OF MINE.
Kachik
FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS, I'VE BEEN MUSING OVER...


AND I KNOW THAT MY YOUTHFUL LOVE...
...WILL BE CAST ASIDE BY HIM IN THE FACE OF THE OBVIOUS -
I AM AWARE THAT I AM ONLY AN ADOLESCENT.
ITS ASEXUAL, INEXPLICABLE NATURE.
ERIC?

WAS IT MEANT FOR JULI? WAS IT WRITTEN TO JULIUSMOLE?
A PIECE OF POETRY NO A LOVE LETTER!
WHO HAS SUCH NARROW SLANTED HANDWRITING? THE LETTER WAS UNSIGNED
AND THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT I LOVE HIM
SO THIS IS NOT A TRIVIAL BET I AM MAKING.
RUSTLE
HAVE YOU FOUND A BOOK YOU LIKE?
...HE MUST LOVE ME.
SO SURELY...
SUCH LOVING LINES... WITHOUT A DATE OR SIGNATURE
HE IS EFFECTIVELY DEAD TO THE WORLD, SO I THINK NOTHING OF MUTILATING MY OWN BODY IN ORDER TO BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE..
AH
UH HUH!
WHO ON EARTH WROTE THIS? DID LUDWIG WRITE IT... TO JULI?
FLIP
...IN THIS WAY, I SHALL ALWAYS LIVE ON...
...IN HIS EYES.

IS THERE A REASON I'M NOT ALLOWED TO BORROW IT?
WHY NOT?
NO?
"RENAISSANCE AND HUMANISM"? NO YOU CAN'T BORROW IT
I WON'T FIND IT HARD! I'VE READ ACADEMIC PAPERS BEFORE! MAY I BORROW IT?
NO... JUST THAT IT'S AN ACADEMIC TREATISE, NOT A NOVEL A NOVEL WOULD SUIT YOU BETTER...
VERY WELL... IF YOU INSIST...
LYING QUIETLY BETWEEN THE PAGES OF THIS OBSCURE TOME IS A LOVE LETTER...
I COERCED HIM INTO LENDING THE BOOK TO ME!
...AND FURTHERMORE, IT'S A LETTER TO JULI!
TO JULI
FROM LUDWIG!


OR SOMEONE ELSE... BUT WHO?
WHO WOULD WRITE THIS TO JULI?
WHO ELSE COULD'VE WRITTEN THIS? IT MUST BE LUDWIG RIGHT?
SOMEONE WHO'D BE WILLING TO DIE FOR JULI...
SOMEONE WHO COULDN'T ADMIT THEIR FEELINGS TO JULI IN PERSON

WHAT DO YOU HAVE THERE?
OH!
H-HI OSCAR!
HEY, ERIC!
shock!
LET ME SEE THAT!
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING!

whack
IT'S NOTHING! JUST A BOOK!
THEN SHOW IT TO ME! WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?
NO!
ERIC!
STOP HIM! SOMEONE STOP HIM FOR ME!
ARGH!
thud
Wah!
YOU WERE READY FOR HIM. HUH? HOLD HIM DOWN A BIT LONGER FOR ME!
DANKE, BACCHUS!
WHY, HELLO
LONG TIME NO SEE!

JULI LENT IT OUT TO ME!
smash!
SO SEIFRIET BORROWED THIS?
"RENAISSANCE AND HUMANISM"?
Oh my
THEN YOU'RE AIMING TO BE THE NEXT KAESTNER, AREN'T YOU, LE BEBE?
REALLY? IS LE BEBE IN THE MOOD TO DO SOME WRITING? THAT'S THE BOOK SEIFRIET GAST BORROWED LAST YEAR TO WRITE A BRILLIANT ESSAY!
YOU WIN!
WAS A FIENDISHLY CLEVER FELLOW WELL, YOU NEVER KNEW HIM THE WAY I DID
AS I RECALL, SEIFRIET
THAT NAME AGAIN... IT MUST BE FATE
SOMETIMES YOU MAKE NO SENSE AT ALL...
?
...THAT HE WAS EXPELLED SHORTLY AFTER HE WROTE THAT ESSAY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING NOWADAYS...
STRUTTING AROUND GIESSEN...
HE BEHAVED SO BADLY...
WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS

KAESTNER a reference to Erich Kaestner, a well-known 20th century German writer best known for children's novels blending satire with social commentary

NOW WHY ON EARTH...
SOMEONE HERE
IS IN LOVE WITH JULI
WHO KNOWS
ARE YOU LOOKING AROUND FOR SOMEONE, ERIC?
...WAS LE BEBE SO DESPERATE TO RETRIEVE THAT BOOK?
AND EVEN LOVES JULI ENOUGH TO DIE FOR HIM
I... I DO LIKE YOU, YOU KNOW...
SOMEONE HERE WROTE A POEM TO JULI!
...I'D THINK NOTHING OF MUTILATING MY OWN BODY.
BUT YOU... SEEM TO PREFER SOMEONE LIKE ERIC, DON'T YOU?
FOR YOUR SAKE ALONE...
!?

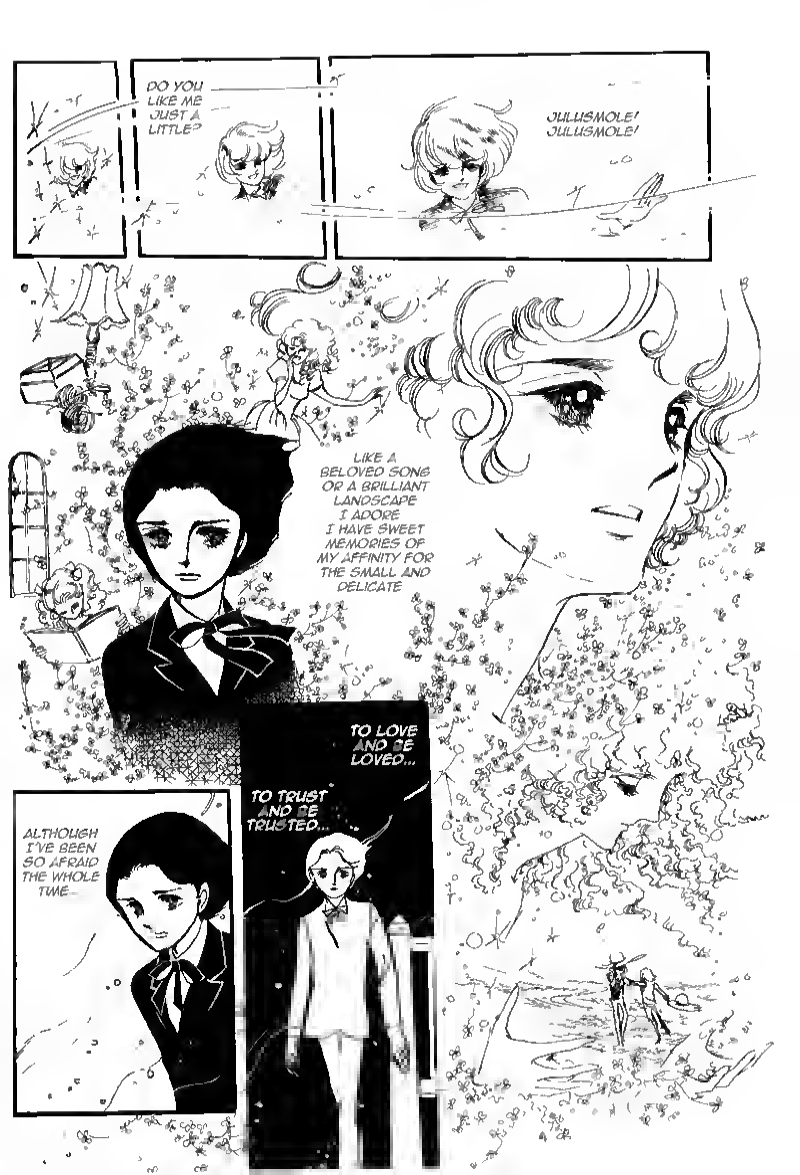
I CAN'T SIMPLY HAND IT TO HIM.
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET LOVE LETTER
TOMORROW I'LL RETURN THE BOOK
I'M ALSO DORM HEAD FOR THE TIME BEING!
rattle
WAIT FOR ME! I'LL GO TOO!
clack
TO DO ROLL-CALL BECAUSE IT'S TIME FOR LIGHTS OUT
JULI! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
rattle
RIGHT! WHAT ABOUT THE MAIN ENTRANCE DOORS?
THERE ARE EIGHT ROOMS IN TOTAL WITH FIRST TO FOURTH YEAR INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS
YES, IT'S A GOOD IDEA FOR YOU TO KNOW THE DUTIES INVOLVED.
THEY'RE KEPT OPEN IN CASE OF A FIRE, SO THE BUILDING CAN BE EVACUATED QUICKLY.

LOOK! IT'S ERIC!
NOTHING AT ALL JILLISMOLE!
VERY WELL THEN GOOD NIGHT
ANYTHING AMISS ?
knock knock
GOOD NIGHT!
VERY WELL GOOD NIGHT
NOTHING WRONG HERE!
GOOD NIGHT!
THIS IS EASY ISN'T IT?
THIS TIME IT'S QUIET
ALL HERE, JILL!
IS EVERYONE HERE?
knock knock
WHAT? DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?
HAS ....
YOU THINK? THEY WERE PROBABLY HAVING PILLOW FIGHTS JUST BEFORE ROLL-CALL!
FURTHERMORE, EVERYONE'S SO WELL-BEHAVED! THEY HAVE A LOT OF RESPECT FOR YOU!
HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THEY LIKED YOU?

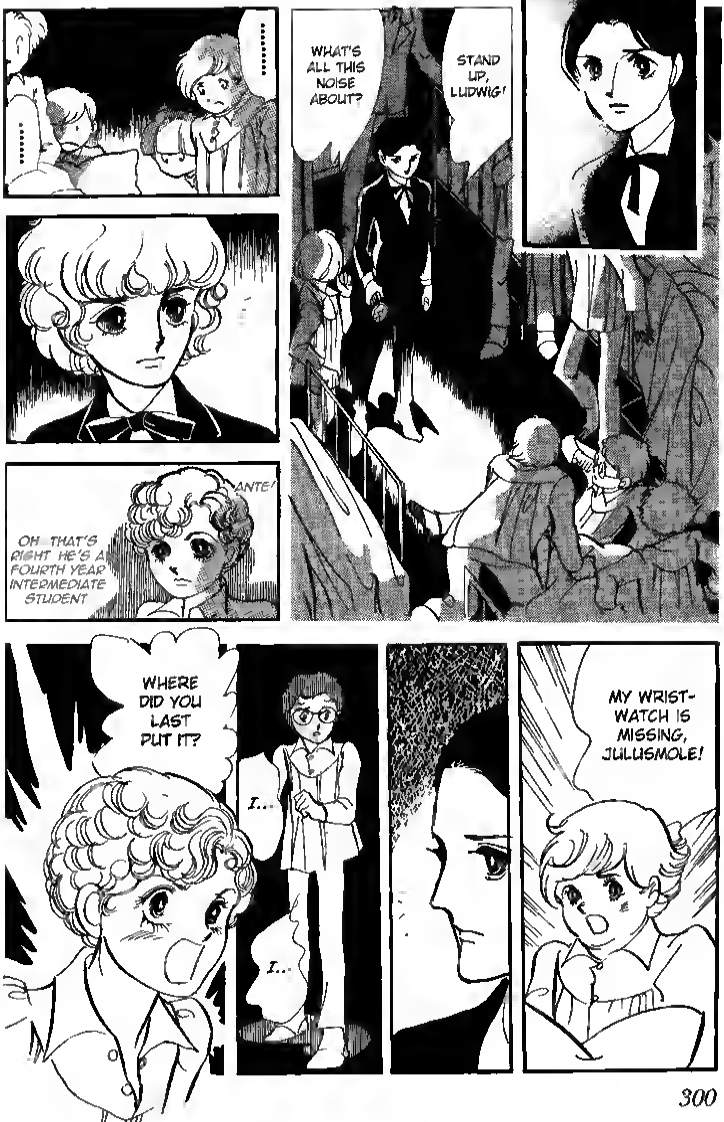
JUL! WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF THERE WAS SOMEONE HERE WHO LIKED YOU A LOT?
NOTHING AT ALL
WHAT IF HE LIKED YOU SO MUCH HE'D BE WILLING TO DIE FOR YOU?!
LATER WE'LL GO BACK AND TURN OFF THE LIGHTS AND OUR JOB SHALL BE DONE
YOUR QUESTION IS UNRELATED TO ROLL-CALL ISN'T IT?
IF SOMEONE LOVED YOU, WOULD YOU FEEL COMPELLED TO LOVE THEM BACK?
WELL, HOW ABOUT YOU?
I WOULDN'T CARE
YOU SEE?
I GUESS NOT, BUT

LET'S SAY THIS FELLOW WHO LIKED ME WAS SOMEONE I COULDN'T STAND. I'M NOT OBLIGED TO RECIPROCATE HIS FEELINGS, AM I?
clack
clack
SO AM I
A FELLOW YOU CAN'T STAND?
NOT REALLY
THEN
DO YOU LIKE ME
...JUST A LITTLE?

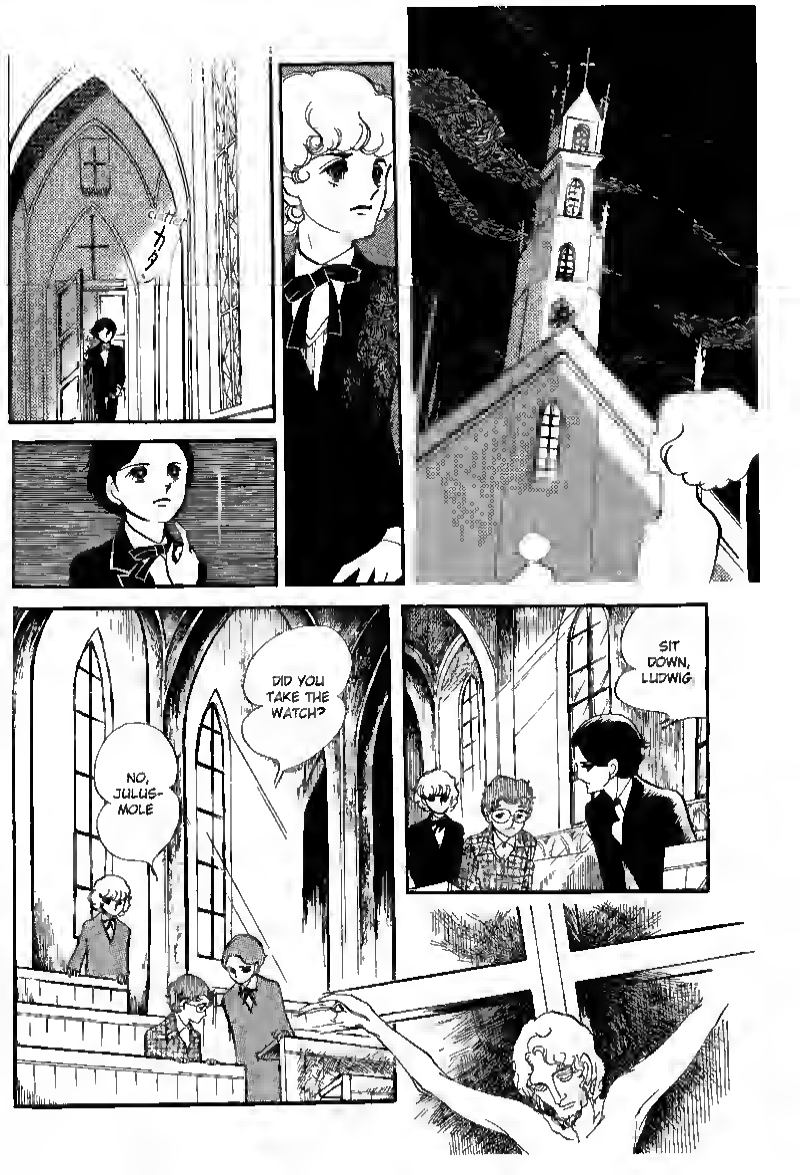
stop
.....
3
step
IF I KEEP WALKING DOWN TOWARDS YOU
I'LL HAVE A SECOND CHANCE TO BE GRANTED ANGEL WINGS
WON'T I?


DO YOU LIKE ME JUST A LITTLE?
JULUSMOLE! JULUSMOLE!
LIKE A BELOVED SONG OR A BRILLIANT LANDSCAPE I ADORE I HAVE SWEET MEMORIES OF MY AFFINITY FOR THE SMALL AND DELICATE
TO LOVE AND BE LOVED...
TO TRUST AND BE TRUSTED...
ALTHOUGH I'VE BEEN SO AFRAID THE WHOLE TIME—

I'VE BEEN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE
CRASH!
JULI!
LUDWIG ?
flash
WHAT'S GOING ON?
wham


.....
.....
WHAT'S ALL THIS NOISE ABOUT?
STAND UP, LUDWIG!
ANTE!
OH THAT'S RIGHT HE'S A FOURTH YEAR INTERMEDIATE STUDENT
WHERE DID YOU LAST PUT IT?
I...
I...
MY WRIST-WATCH IS MISSING, JULIUSMOLE!

Flash
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
Kachik
Flash
COME ALONG, LUDWIG. LET'S HAVE A LITTLE TALK
DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF LUDWIG TOOK IT?!
IT'S GONE! IT WAS HERE AND NOW IT'S MISSING!
IT WAS LUDWIG!
YOU'RE ACTING SUSPICIOUS TOO, ANTE! YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT AN ACCOMPLICE?
ANTE, WHY DID YOU STICK UP FOR LUDWIG?
YES! WHY DID YOU?
ALL RIGHT. SO I WAS WRONG TO STICK UP FOR HIM! I HAPPEN TO LIKE OUTSIDERS LIKE HIM. THAT'S ALL! LEAVE ME ALONE!
WHERE ARE WE GOING, JULI?
JULI!
JULIS-MOLE!
ROOM SUPERVISOR, IT'S PAST THE CURFEW FOR LIGHTS OUT. YOU'RE SETTING A BAD EXAMPLE. GO TO BED, ALL OF YOU.

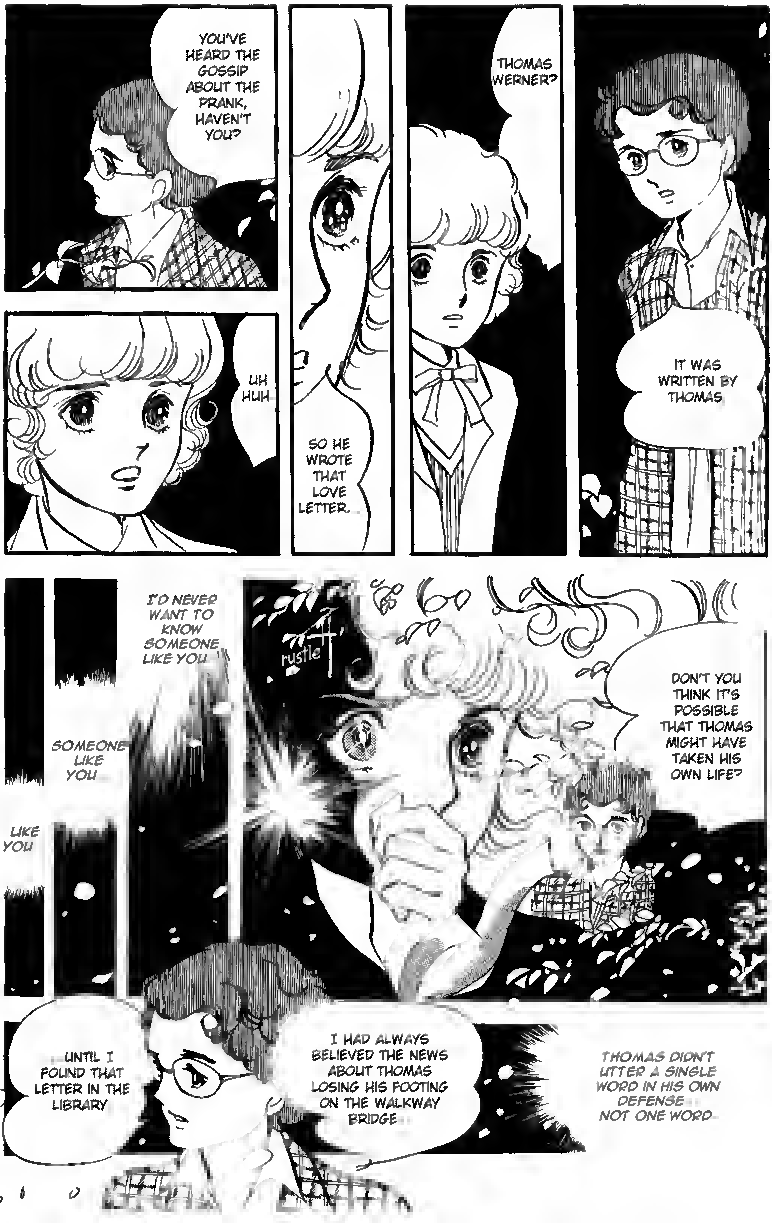

カタ
SIT DOWN, LUDWIG
DID YOU TAKE THE WATCH?
NO, JULIS-MOLE

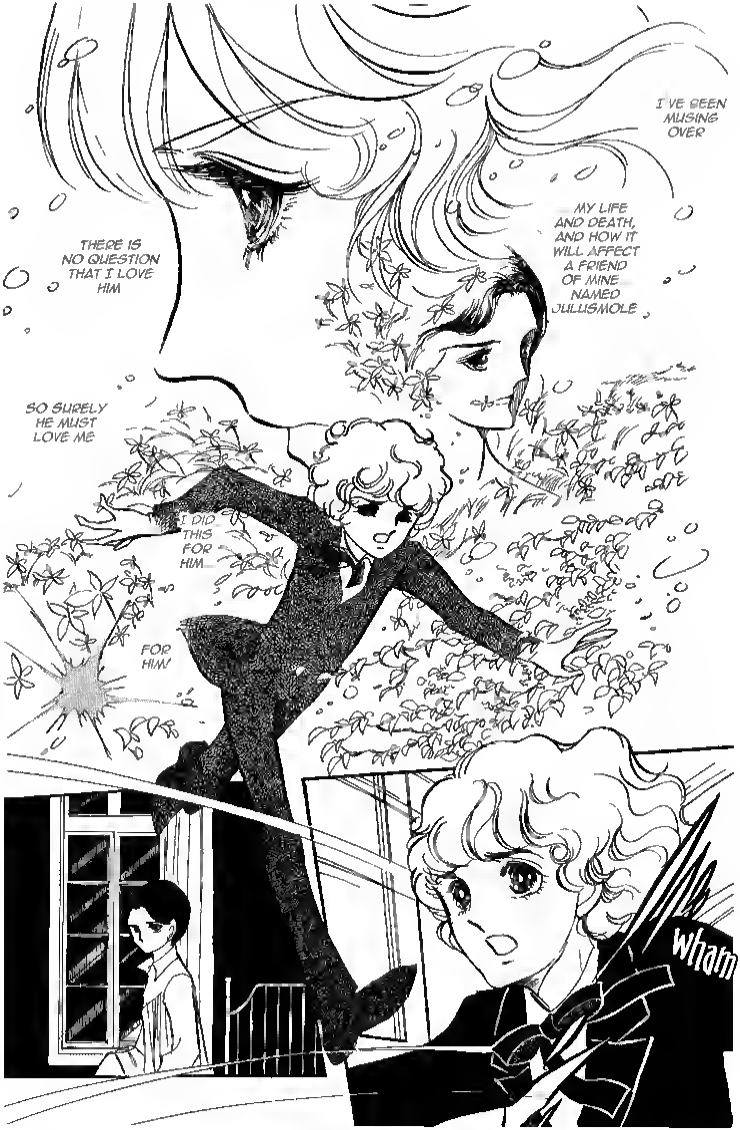
CONFESS ALL, AND GOD WILL GRANT YOU FORGIVENESS
GOD IS ALWAYS WATCHING OVER YOU, AND HE LOVES YOU VERY MUCH
HE'S BEING HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR A MISSING WATCH
I'M SURE HE KNOWS HIMSELF THAT HE'S AT FAULT, BUT WHY CONFRONT HIM IN A PLACE OF WORSHIP?
SPEAK THE TRUTH, LUDWIG YOU'RE HERE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD
BUT... I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
THE BOY WHO'S A COMPULSIVE THIEF...
LUDWIG, WE ARE ALL SINNERS
THAT'S WHY WE ALL MUST DO OUR UTMOST TO BE GOOD
HE WON'T SAVE THE SINNERS
THOSE WHO ARE GOOD
GOD ONLY LOVES
IF YOU DO COMMIT SUCH DEEDS, THEN YOU MUST REPENT FOR YOUR SINS.
DON'T YOU AGREE?
...SUCH AS TELLING LIES, STEALING THINGS, AND KILLING PEOPLE.
YOU CANNOT GET AWAY WITH EVIL DEEDS...

LUDWIG!
I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY WE CAN'T HELP COMMITTING EVIL...
CAN WE?
WE HUMANS ARE SINFUL BY NATURE
YOU PUT ON THE AIRS OF A VIRTUOUS SAINT AS YOU READ THE BIBLE ALOUD FROM THE PULPIT. I SUPPOSE THAT MAKES YOU SUPERIOR TO A MERE LIAR LIKE ME.
HAND OVER THE WATCH, LUDWIG!
W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHY, YOUR TREATMENT OF THOMAS WERNER.
slam

I'LL BE REPORTING THIS INCIDENT TO HERR HOMANN. RETURN TO YOUR ROOM.
rustle
click
LUDWIG!
I WONDER
LUDWIG!

I GUESS IT WAS YOU WHO TOOK THE BOOK...
WHY DID YOU SAY SUCH THINGS TO JULI? WHAT'S THOMAS GOT TO DO WITH IT? WHAT DID JULI DO TO THOMAS?
LUDWIG!
...IF I'LL BE EXPELLED THIS TIME
I-I WASN'T THINKING I'LL RETURN IT TO THE SHELF. I HAVEN'T SHOWN THE BOOK OR YOUR POEM TO ANYONE...
PUT THE BOOK BACK IN ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE...
I THINK OF THAT SPOT AS MY OWN PLACE OF WORSHIP...
YOU...
YOU MEAN THE POEM HIDDEN WITHIN THE PAGES?
MY POEM?
...BECAUSE SOMETIMES I GO THERE TO RE-READ THE POEM
SO MUCH THAT YOU'D DIE FOR HIM
YOU LIKE JULLISMOLE DON'T YOU?


YOU'VE HEARD THE GOSSIP ABOUT THE PRANK, HAVEN'T YOU?
UH HUH
SO HE WROTE THAT LOVE LETTER.
THOMAS WERNER?
IT WAS WRITTEN BY THOMAS
I'D NEVER WANT TO KNOW SOMEONE LIKE YOU
SOMEONE LIKE YOU
LIKE YOU
rustle
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THOMAS MIGHT HAVE TAKEN HIS OWN LIFE?
UNTIL I FOUND THAT LETTER IN THE LIBRARY
I HAD ALWAYS BELIEVED THE NEWS ABOUT THOMAS LOSING HIS FOOTING ON THE WALKWAY BRIDGE
THOMAS DIDN'T UTTER A SINGLE WORD IN HIS OWN DEFENSE NOT ONE WORD


I'VE BEEN MUSING OVER
MY LIFE AND DEATH, AND HOW IT WILL AFFECT A FRIEND OF MINE NAMED JULISMOLE
THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT I LOVE HIM
SO SURELY HE MUST LOVE ME
I DID THIS FOR HIM
FOR HIM!
Wham

HE KILLED HIMSELF OVER YOU! YOU MUST HAVE KNOWN!
YES, YOU DID! YOU SAID THOSE HARSH WORDS TO HIM TO BEGIN WITH, AND THEN HE...
YOU KNEW THOMAS WERNER KILLED HIMSELF, DIDN'T YOU?
IT WAS ON A MONDAY
W-WHEN DID HE TELL YOU? WAS IT WHEN HE HEARD YOUR REJECTION?
NOW GO TO BED GOOD NIGHT
HE TOLD ME AS MUCH
YOU ARRIVED HERE ON AN OVERCAST AND WINDY DAY, DIDN'T YOU? THAT WAS THE DAY I RIPPED HIS LETTER TO SHREDS
IT WAS THOMAS'S LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
AFTER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS I RECEIVED A LETTER AT THE SAME TIME I WAS NOTIFIED OF THOMAS'S DEATH

WHY DID YOU RIP IT UP?!
WHY, JULI?!
WHAT LETTER ?
THE DAY I ARRIVED
WHAT WAS IN THAT LETTER? DID HE DECLARE HIS LOVE FOR YOU?
IF HE LOVED ME SO MUCH AS HE CLAIMED, THEN WHY DID HE HAVE TO THROW HIS LIFE AWAY?
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY?
WHAT'S MORE, HE WAS IDOLIZED WITH LOTS OF ADMIRERS SO WHY···
HE WAS A NICE AND CHARMING PUPIL

IF I WERE IN LOVE I'D NEVER IMPOSE MYSELF ON OTHERS LIKE THAT!
HE LOVED YOU SO MUCH...
...HE WAS WILLING TO GIVE UP HIS LIFE FOR YOU.
YOU SEE HE...
...DID HE HAVE TO DO THAT FOR ME?
IN THE END THOMAS WAS A BOY WHO ONLY LOVED HIMSELF.
ALL HE WANTED TO DO WAS ATTRACT MY ATTENTION.
JULIUS-MOLE!
JULIUS-MOLE!
IF I WERE TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE AND KILL MYSELF IN ATONEMENT, THEN I SUPPOSE HE'D HAVE THE GREAT SATISFACTION OF KNOWING HIS RUSE WAS A SUCCESS.
HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BIT OF A ROMANTIC.
JULIUS-MOLE!
SO WHAT IF HE LOVED ME?
I DON'T BELIEVE HIM!
I LOVE YOU!

THOMAS WERNER...
GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING! GOOD DAY!
HOW LAZY AND CARELESS!
WHERE'S ERIC? THAT RASCAL DIDN'T TURN UP TO MASS AGAIN!
OH!
HI ERIC!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK AS IF YOU HAD A SLEEPLESS NIGHT.
TIME'S RUNNING OUT! GO AND EAT BREAKFAST!

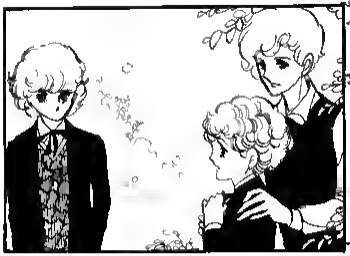
OSCAR!
ERIC!
chatter
chatter
YOU KNEW... YOU KNEW ABOUT THOMAS!
ERIC!
JUMP
WHY DIDN'T JULI BELIEVE THOMAS WHEN THOMAS TOLD HIM HE LIKED HIM? WHY DIDN'T JULI TRUST HIM? WHY WAS THOMAS ALLOWED TO DIE?
ERIC!
SO... SO THAT'S WHY YOU AND JULI ARE CLOSE!
WHY...

HOW DID HE DIE?
ON THE LAST SNOWY DAY BEFORE SPRING, HE JUMPED FROM THE WALKWAY BRIDGE
THERE'S NO TIME LEFT!
IT'S THE CLASS BELL!
thud thud
THEY SUDDENLY LEFT
WHERE HAVE OSCAR AND ERIC GONE?
WELL!
SO JULI HEARD ABOUT IT?
BETWEEN THE PATCHES OF MELTING SNOW DAFFODILS AND CROCUSES BLOSSOMED ALL AT ONCE
WINTER ENDED THAT VERY SAME DAY
BUT... DEEP DOWN HOW WAS HE?
IT WAS THERE IN THE WAY HE WALKED AND TALKED, THE SAME AS USUAL.
ON THE CONTRARY, HE WAS AS DISCIPLINED AND DRIVEN AS EVER IN EVERYTHING HE DID.
YES, AND HE WAS UNMOVED BY THE NEWS.

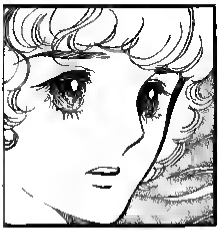
SO IS THAT WHY JULI HATES THOMAS? BECAUSE OF THE WAY THOMAS KILLED HIMSELF... OR WAS THERE SOMETHING ELSE?
.....
CAN YOU TELL HOW SOMEONE ELSE FEELS DEEP DOWN?
DEEP DOWN?
HOW MUCH CAN WE REALLY KNOW ABOUT EACH OTHER?
THERE WAS THAT PRANK THOMAS PULLED...
WELL...
HA! HA!
ANTE!
AH!

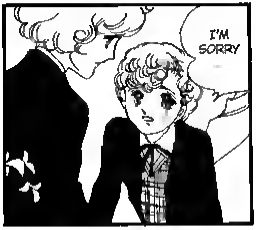
HE WAS LISTENING IN ON US!
WHAT IS IT?
shove
ANTE ROHE!
WAIT, ANTE!
ANTE!
GO AWAY!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT! THE BET'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
GO AWAY!
I WAS WRONG! LISTEN TO ME! I WAS WRONG!
GET AWAY FROM ME!
HIS DEATH WASN'T YOUR FAULT, ANTE.

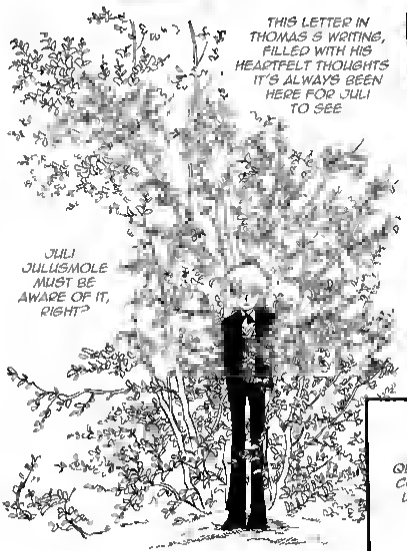
FROM THIS EXACT SPOT HE WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO WATCH JULI IN THE PRIVATE STUDY ROOM.
TAKE A LOOK
SINCE WHO KNOWS WHEN
THOMAS OFTEN CAME OUT HERE BENEATH THESE TREES...
...TO READ BOOKS HE BORROWED FROM THE LIBRARY...
.....
HE'D BEEN DOING THIS LONG BEFORE YOU MADE THAT WAGER WITH HIM...
FROM HIS LIBRARY CARD... I NOTICED HOW HE WAS HUNTING DOWN THE BOOKS JULI HAD READ.
HE LEFT IT BEHIND IN THE PRIVATE STUDY ROOM.
I HAVE THOMAS'S LIBRARY CARD I HAPPENED TO SEE IT LYING AROUND...
SINCE WHO KNOWS WHEN



COME ON, LET'S GO BACK TO CLASS THE SCHOOL BELL RANG A LONG TIME AGO

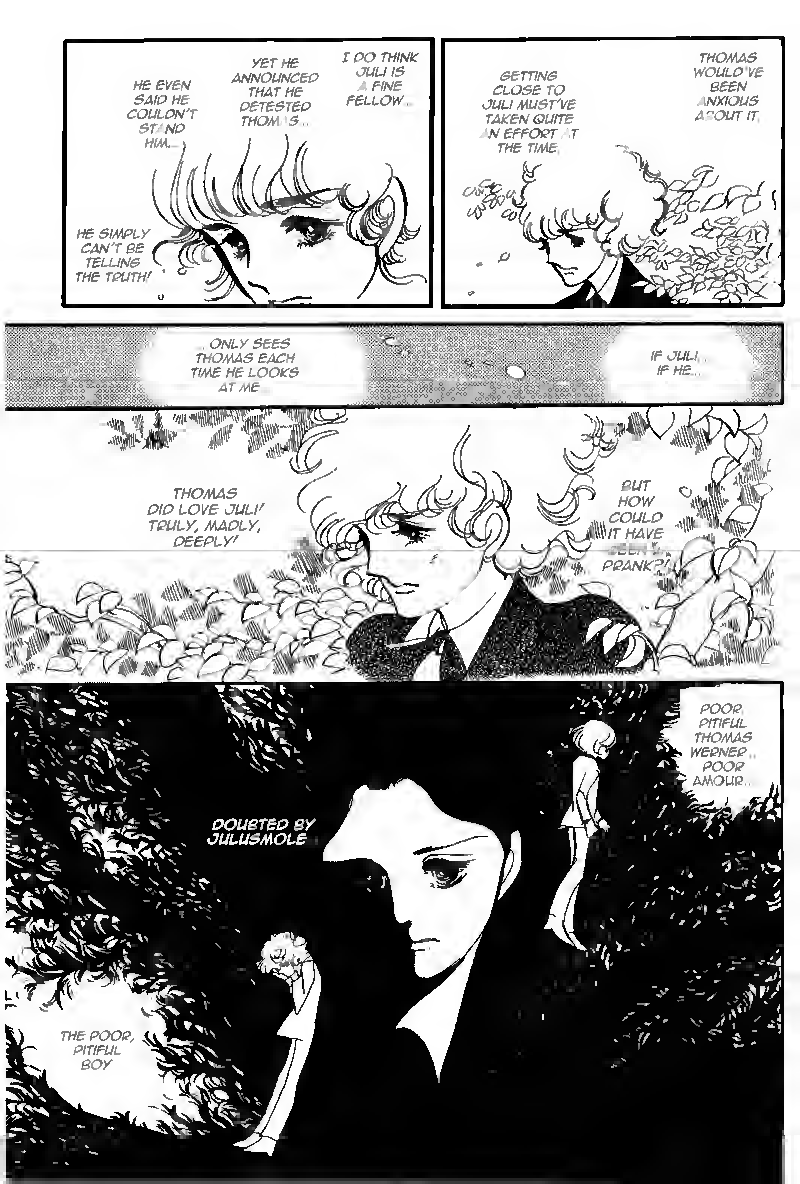



I'M SORRY


THIS LETTER IN THOMAS'S WRITING, FILLED WITH HIS HEARTFELT THOUGHTS IT'S ALWAYS BEEN HERE FOR JULI TO SEE
JULI JULIUSMOLE MUST BE AWARE OF IT, RIGHT?

A FORGOTEN LETTER TRAPPED WITHIN THE PAGES OF A BORROWED BOOK...

WHY DID HE APOLOGIZE TO ME?
OR WAS HE APOLOGIZING TO THOMAS?
THAT STOOD QUIETLY ON THE CORNER SHELF UNTIL LUDWIG MANAGED TO FIND IT


HE EVEN SAID HE COULDN'T STAND HIM...
YET HE ANNOUNCED THAT HE DETESTED THOMAS...
I DO THINK JULI IS A FINE FELLOW...
HE SIMPLY CAN'T BE TELLING THE TRUTH!
GETTING CLOSE TO JULI MUST'VE TAKEN QUITE AN EFFORT AT THE TIME.
THOMAS WOULD'VE BEEN ANXIOUS ABOUT IT.
...ONLY SEES THOMAS EACH TIME HE LOOKS AT ME...
IF JULI... IF HE...
THOMAS DID LOVE JULI! TRULY, MADLY, DEEPLY!
BUT HOW COULD IT HAVE BEEN A PRANK?!
DOUBTED BY JULIUSMOLE
THE POOR, PITIFUL BOY
POOR, PITIFUL THOMAS WERNER... POOR AMOUR...

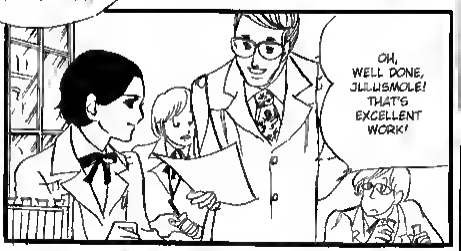
Sobb
Crackle
OH!
TAKE CARE, HERBERT YOU MUSTN'T BE CARELESS OR ELSE YOU'LL HAVE AN ACCIDENT
OOPS!
RATTLE
WATCH OUT, ERIC! JULI WARNED US TO TAKE CARE A MOMENT AGO!
Crack
I WAS BEING CARE-FUL!
BE MORE CARE-FUL
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE YOU FIGHTING WITH JULI AGAIN?
SO YOU THINK I'M THE ONE AT FAULT THE WHOLE TIME YOU FIEND?
JULLUSMOLE IS A CRUEL... HEARTLESS . WRETCHED SCOUNDREL!

ALL RIGHT! FINISH UP IN TEN MINUTES! IT'S MEANT TO BE A SIMPLE EXPERIMENT!
Clap!
chatter
chatter

I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT... THIS SUITS ME JUST FINE...

THEN YOU'VE MESSED IT UP!
THAT CAN'T BE!
THE TEMPERATURE DROPS WHEN IT DISSOLVES HERR HOMANN!
I EXPECT A TWO-PAGE REPORT WITH AN ATTACHED GRAPH BY THE END OF TODAY!

ERIC'S WORDS TOOK ME BACK TO LAST NIGHT FOR A MOMENT
"GOD ONLY LOVES THOSE WHO ARE GOOD"
YOU'RE RIGHT, LUDWIG YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE AN ANGEL, THOMAS SO DON'T TELL ME YOU LOVE ME JUST ASCEND UP TO HEAVEN ONCE AND FOR ALL


OH, WELL DONE, JULLISMOLE! THAT'S EXCELLENT WORK!

crack

YOU'VE DONE MORE THAN ENOUGH!
ERIC FRUEHLING! WERE YOU TRYING TO WRECK THE THERMOMETER ON PURPOSE?!

THEN DON'T DO THAT YOU'RE BEING A NUISANCE
NOT REALLY NOTHING IN PARTICULAR...
FLIP FLIP
DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME, OSCAR?
WHAT?
slam
!?
IGNORE
IT'S ME
DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TO SAY TO ME, OSCAR?
snap
click

I KNEW YOU WERE FOND OF THOMAS AND I THOUGHT OSCAR WOULD NEVER NOTICE ME AS LONG AS YOU WERE AROUND
ALTHOUGH I CRIED WHEN THOMAS DIED, I NEVER LIKED HIM THAT MUCH
THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS...
...YOU DON'T KNOW.
UMM... EXCUSE ME JULI
I DIDN'T MISLEAD YOU OVER THE PRANK, BUT
HEAR ME OUT!
WON'T YOU MOVE OUT OF MY WAY, ANTE?
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
I'M SO SORRY ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENED
I FOR.

YOU SHOULD'VE SAID NOTHING AT ALL... TO ME OF ALL PEOPLE!
JULI ?!
HOW DO I LOOK TO YOU?! AFTER ALL THIS TIME, DID YOU HONESTLY THINK.
JULI
I WONDER IF ANYONE WOULD FORGIVE ME.
I HONESTLY WONDER IF I COULD ASK FORGIVENESS OF ANYONE

squeak
キィー
LIEBE,
LOVE...
HUH
bang
bang
bang
bang
Wipe
ササッ

ERIC!
clatter
OUCH!
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, ERIC?!
IT'LL BE WASHED AWAY IN THE SHOWER!
THE FLOOR IS STAINED WITH BLOOD
DID YOU CUT YOURSELF? HERE, LET ME SEE
I'M FINE! I'LL VISIT THE INFIRMARY!
I'LL CLEAN IT UP LATER!

YOU'VE LOST HIM. HE'S SLIPPED THROUGH YOUR FINGERS ONCE MORE
JULUSMOLE JULUSMOLE!
IT'S BLATANTLY OBVIOUS THIS TIME BLATANTLY OBVIOUS
Slam
YOU'RE INSANE TO PUT PRESSURE ON THAT INJURY OF YOURS, JULI SZYD
ARE YOU VISITING THIS BOY OUT OF LOVE? HE'S NOT EVEN YOUR SON!
I'M FINE
THAT DOSE SHOULD BE ENOUGH. DOES IT HURT?
NO
I'M CARRYING OUT THE INSTRUCTIONS IN MARIE'S WILL...
.....

WHY NOT? YOU WON'T BE GRANTED LEAVE TO GO OUT THIS WEEKEND!
HEY, JULI!
I DIDN'T DO ANY OF IT
BUT LISTEN ERIC! DID YOU FINISH OFF THIS WEEK'S HOMEWORK?
SOMEONE DIDN'T TURN UP TO PREPARE THE EQUIPMENT FOR THIS AFTERNOON'S CHEMISTRY EXPERIMENT
IT SHOULD'VE BEEN ME
AHEM! YES!
HER-BERT?
I'M GUESSING HE'LL GIVE UP IN ANOTHER WEEK!
VIOLIN! HE STARTED TAKING VIOLIN LESSONS!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S BEEN BUSY DOING LATELY?
I SAY THREE DAYS!

COME ON!
THE OTHER DAY I NOTICED A BOTTLE OF MEDICINAL ALCOHOL WAS NEARLY EMPTY WHAT HAPPENED TO IT? DON'T TELL ME YOU DRANK IT ALL?
I'M NOT THAT PLEASED ABOUT HAVING YOU AS A LAB ASSISTANT
WHY NOT?
IS IT BECAUSE YOU CAN'T STAND TO BE NEAR HIM?
ERIC LATELY YOU SEEM AWFULLY KEEN TO AVOID JULI
THAT'S THE WINDOW TO THE CHEMISTRY LAB...
I DON'T HAVE A REASON TO HATE JULI EXCEPT...
Wah!?
Ugh!
I DON'T HATE JULI
Arch
THE LAB WHERE JULI'S WORKING
WAH! ERIC!
WHACK

JULI!
CRASH
BAM
ARGH!
HSSA
FLUSH YOUR EYES WITH WATER!
Splish
YOU SHOULD VISIT THE INFIRMARY
I'M FINE, THANKS
WHO'S THE FELLOW WHO KICKED THE BALL IN HERE? WHERE IS HE?
SO DID OSCAR MAKE YOU RINSE YOUR EYES OUT WITH WATER? THAT'S THE BEST TREATMENT.
I'M ALL RIGHT NOW.

Phew!
HOWEVER, I GUESS IT'S A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY MORE OINTMENT TO YOUR BACK. COULD YOU TAKE OFF YOUR SHIRT?
EVERYONE AROUND ME WAS STUNNED BY THE ACCIDENT.
I KEPT TELLING THEM IT WAS NOTHING SERIOUS.
AH YES, IT WASN'T THAT SERIOUS
I'M SO RELIEVED
HIS INJURY DOES APPEAR TO BE NOTHING SERIOUS
THERE ARE MANY TIMES WE NEED TO PUT THE PAST BEHIND US, JULIUSMOLE.
AND THERE ARE MANY TIMES WE NEED TO OPEN OURSELVES UP TO NEW EXPERIENCES.
HIS BACK IS COVERED WITH SCARS!

WHY, YOU HAVE A FRIEND RIGHT HERE WHO'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU. HE'S COME TO ESCORT YOU BACK, JULIUSMOLE
creak
SUCH AS BEFRIENDING OTHERS AND LEARNING TO TRUST...
I'LL BEFRIEND HIM AND GAIN HIS TRUST
VERY WELL
YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT HELP, HERR ARZT
I-I DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM, JUL!!

I'M APOLOGIZING FOR ONCE! THIS ACCIDENT WAS MY FAULT!
WHY SHOULDN'T I?! BUT I FEEL SO AWFUL AROUT EVERYTHING!
EVEN SO—
YOU SHOULDN'T BE THE ONE FEELING GUILTY!
—I DON'T HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST YOU
YOU LIVE IN A CAREFREE WORLD THAT'S BATHED IN LIGHT
JUST NOW—
YOU DON'T KNOW YOU HAVE NO IDEA AT ALL—
WHY ON EARTH DO YOU FEEL YOU MUST APOLOGIZE TO ME FOR EVERYTHING? I NEVER ASKED YOU TO DO SO, DID I?
JUST NOW YOU SAW IT— YOU SAW WHAT'S LEFT OF MY WINGS THE WINGS THAT WERE TORN FROM ME

WHAT'S MORE HE WAS AIMING THE WRONG WAY!
YES, IT WAS ME
RIGHT, GIVE ME THE VIOLIN BOW! ERIC, WERE YOU THE ONE WHO KICKED THE BALL INTO THE CHEMISTRY LAB?
SCREECH
OH, IT'S ERIC!
HI!
HOLD OUT YOUR RIGHT HAND!
smack
pounce
HOLD OUT YOUR HAND AGAIN!
THAT ACCIDENT IN THE CHEMISTRY LAB MIGHT HAVE HAD DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES!
DON'T BE A CRYBABY! I'M JUST ENFORCING THE SCHOOL RULES!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
OWW! ARGH!
whack whack whack
EEK!
HE'S OUT OF CONTROL!
HOLD HIM DOWN!

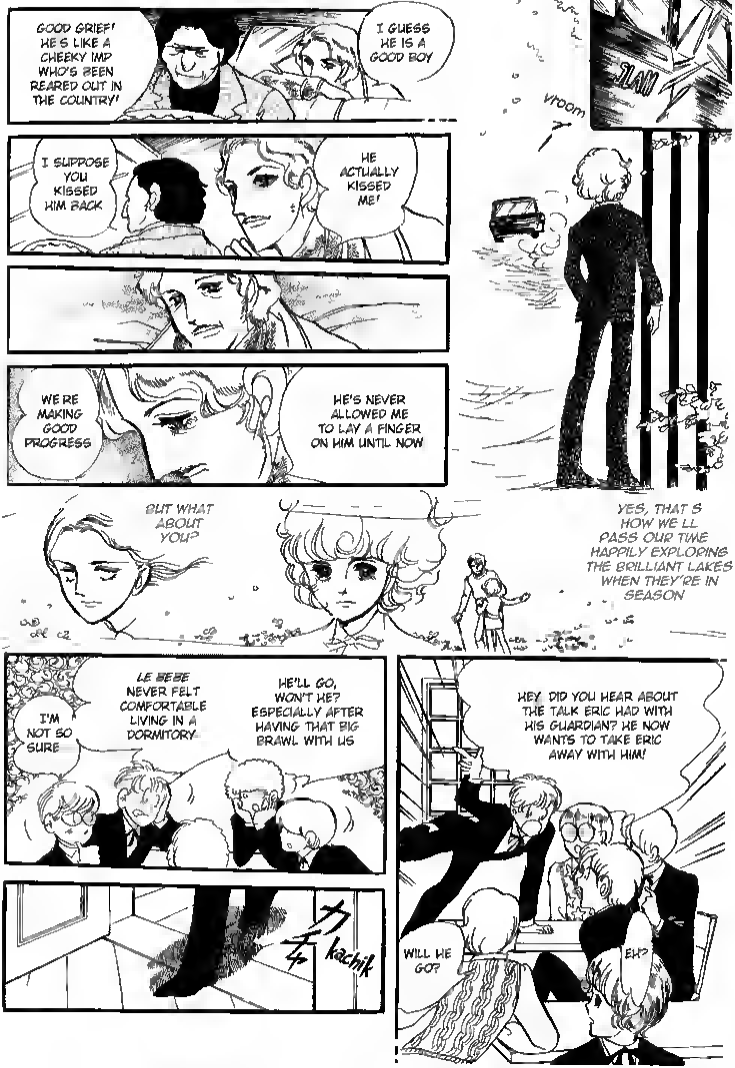
HE AND SEVERAL OTHERS HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO STAND IN A LINE AS PUNISHMENT FOR A CLASSROOM BRAWL.
ERIC FRUEHLING!
THE STUDENT YOU WISH TO SEE IS STANDING OUTSIDE THIS DOOR
I UNDERSTAND THE REASON FOR YOUR VISIT, HERR MAX DODD
DON'T TOUCH ME, YOU FILTHY SCUM!
HEY, ERIC!
ERIC!
SOMEONE'S CALLING YOU, ERIC
I'VE BROUGHT HIM BACK FROM PARIS BY CAR— HE'S WAITING AT THE REAR GATE TO SPEAK WITH YOU IN PERSON!
I AM A FRIEND AND PERSONAL PHYSICIAN TO JULI SZYD SCHWARTZ
WHO ARE YOU? HOW DARE YOU CALL ME BY MY FIRST NAME!
ARE YOU ERIC?

I WAS ON MY WAY TO PARIS WITH MARIE REMEMBER?
BEFORE THE ACCIDENT...
KEEP YOUR CHIN UP YOUNG MAN
.....
I TOLD YOU I WAS GOING TO COME OUT SO I DID. YOU OLD QUACK! COULD I SPEAK TO HIM IN PRIVATE INSIDE THE CAR?
I DON'T REMEMBER GIVING YOU PERMISSION TO COME OUT OF THE CAR!
SHE WANTED YOU TO STAY WITH US BY LAKE BODEN
ONCE WE REACHED PARIS, SHE WAS GOING TO WRITE YOU A LETTER AND CALL YOU AT SCHOOL
SHE SPOKE ONLY OF YOU DURING THE JOURNEY
STAY WITH YOU?

IT'S GONE FOR GOOD
LMM... HAVE YOU LOST YOUR FOOT OR IS IT HIDDEN?
I CAN WALK
ARE YOU ABLE TO WALK?
SHALL WE GO FOR A SHORT WALK? THAT HILL SEEMS NICE, AND I DISLIKE THE STENCH OF EXHAUST FUMES
I CONTACTED MY FRIEND IN BODEN BECAUSE THE PIG-HEADED SURGEON IN PARIS WOULDN'T ALLOW ME TO BE DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL
WELL, THAT'S HOW I WAS ABLE TO ARRIVE HERE
I ENDED UP IN A HOSPITAL WITHOUT MAKING IT TO PARIS IT WAS THERE THAT I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM HERR KIMBURG HE'S YOUR LAWYER, ISN'T HE?
YES, I DO DO YOU MIND?
SO YOU... YOU WANT TO TAKE CARE OF ME?
FROM WHAT HERR KIMBURG WROTE, IT SEEMS YOUR NATURAL FATHER, HERR BRAUN HAS AGREED TO TAKE OVER YOUR CARE IN FACT, HE IS MORE THAN HAPPY TO DO SO
I MAY BE YOUR LEGAL GUARDIAN FOR NOW, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT THE ODDS OF THE COURT DECIDING IN MY FAVOR ARE NEXT TO NONE
WHY THE ODDS OF GAINING CUSTODY OF YOU OF COURSE!
THE ODDS OF WHAT?

WE BOTH RECALL HOW BEAUTIFUL MARIE WAS WHILE SHE WAS ALIVE THAT WILL GIVE US PLENTY TO TALK ABOUT, DON'T YOU THINK?
SO WHY DON'T WE SPEND OUR LIVES TOGETHER?
INDEED. I LOVED MARIE VERY MUCH AND I KNOW YOU LOVED MARIE VERY MUCH TOO
BUT WHY? YOU LOVED MARIE NOT ME
I SUPPOSE I'LL NEVER BE A GOOD FENCING OPPONENT FOR YOU BUT I CAN SHOW YOU HOW TO PAINT
I STILL USE CRUTCHES, BUT WITH MY PROSTHETIC LEG ATTACHED I'LL BE ABLE TO WALK AND RUN AND EVEN GO SWIMMING
YOU'LL PUT MARIE BEHIND YOU I'M SURE YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE AGAIN
WHY WOULD YOU BE A NUISANCE?
I'LL BE A NUISANCE TO YOU
I DON'T WANT HERR BRAUN TO TAKE CUSTODY OF YOU BECAUSE THAT MEANS I'LL LOSE YOU TOO
WE'LL CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT IF I DO PROVE TO BE SO FICKLE IN MY AFFECTIONS THEN I'LL NOW BEFORE YOU AND SEEK YOUR PARDON

SO WON'T YOU COME AWAY WITH ME OR DO YOU HATE ME SO MUCH?
DOES THAT MEAN I CAN'T STAY AT SCHOOL? THERE'S A BOY I KNOW HERE I WANT TO GAIN HIS TRUST
THEN I'LL MAKE SURE I GET PLENTY OF WALKING PRACTICE BEFORE THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

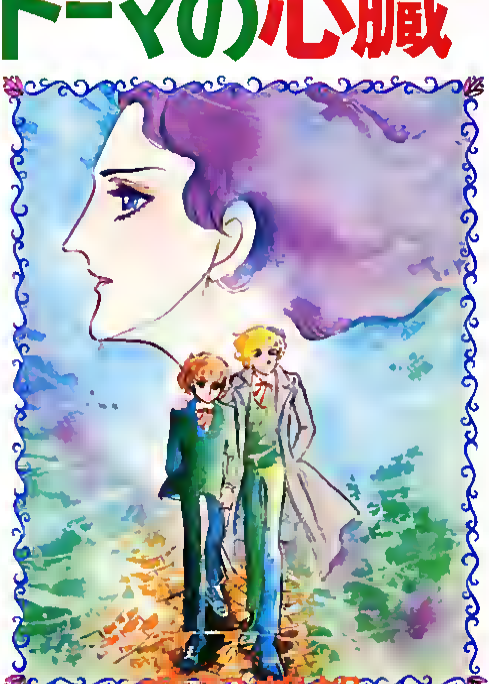

GOOD GRIEF! HE'S LIKE A CHEEKY IMP WHO'S BEEN REARED OUT IN THE COUNTRY!
I GUESS HE IS A GOOD BOY
I SUPPOSE YOU KISSED HIM BACK
HE ACTUALLY KISSED ME!
WE'RE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS
HE'S NEVER ALLOWED ME TO LAY A FINGER ON HIM UNTIL NOW
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
YES, THAT'S HOW WE'LL PASS OUR TIME HAPPILY EXPLODING THE BRILLIANT LAKES WHEN THEY'RE IN SEASON
I'M NOT SO SURE
LE BEBE NEVER FELT COMFORTABLE LIVING IN A DORMITORY
HE'LL GO, WON'T HE? ESPECIALLY AFTER HAVING THAT BIG BRAWL WITH HIS
kachik
HEY, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE TALK ERIC HAD WITH HIS GUARDIAN? HE NOW WANTS TO TAKE ERIC AWAY WITH HIM!
WILL HE GO?
EH?

ARE YOU PREPARING TO LEAVE FOR BODEN?
RUSTLE
I'M GOING TO TAKE MY STUDIES A LITTLE MORE SERIOUSLY, THAT'S ALL
WHO, ME?
tap
I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE... BECAUSE YOU'RE HERE
HE CARES ABOUT ME HE'S GOING BACK HOME TO REST...
IS YOUR GUARDIAN UPSET WITH YOU?
EVEN IF YOU DON'T TRUST ME, I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU ANYMORE. I LIKE YOU AND THAT'S WHY I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE...

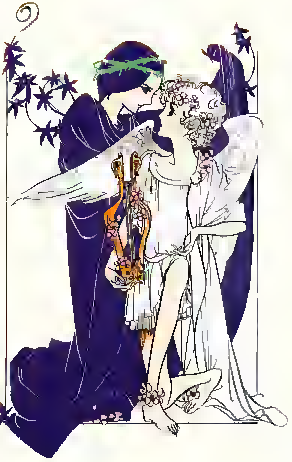
Bible

FLOWER COMICS

トーマの心臓 3



萩尾望都



Thoma no Shinzou

The Heart of Thomas by Hagio Moto
Volume 3 of 3

These scans are from the 1995 single bunko edition
A scan from the original 1974 Volume 3 tankoubon cover has been included too

Please note that this manga was first published over three tankoubon volumes and the scanlated pages here comprise the Volume 3 tankoubon

At the very end is a color illustrated short story and BW illustrations from the 2007 Shogakukan reprint of *Thoma no Shinzou* Volume 2 [Hagio Moto Perfect Selection]

Scans and cleaning Yuu-chan
German help. Gabriele
Other stuff :P

'I LIKE YOU, AND THAT'S WHY I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE
JULI SAID NOTHING IN REPLY. THERE WASN'T EVEN ANY CHANGE IN THE EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE
HE JUST PICKED UP HIS FLASHLIGHT AND WENT OUT TO DO THE NIGHTLY ROLL CALL
OSCAR TOLD ME HE WAITS UNTIL JULI OPENS THE DOOR
SO SHOULD I WAIT FOR JULI TOO?

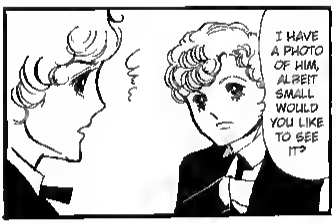
AS A CHILD I HAD NO INHIBITIONS ABOUT EXPRESSING MY LOVE
I LOVED MARIE AND I LOVED MANY OTHER THINGS AS WELL DESPITE ALL I'VE BEEN THROUGH THE THINGS I LOVE REMAIN CONSTANT MY BOOKS MY HOME LITTLE SONGBIRDS AND LINES OF POETRY MY LOVE IS THE FOUNDATION THAT BINDS THEM TOGETHER
SO THAT'S WHY FALLING HELPLESSLY IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE WHEN YOU FEEL LONELY AND LOST
IS PERFECTLY NORMAL
WHY IS SOMETHING SO SIMPLE IMPOSSIBLE FOR JULI TO ACCEPT?

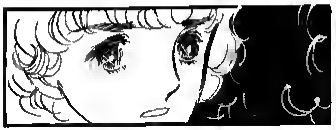
DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS? CUTE LITTLE ERIC ASKED HIS GUARDIAN TO LET HIM STAY AT THIS SCHOOL
BECAUSE HE LIKES JULI!
REALLY? WHAT DOES THE HEAD PREFECT FEEL FOR HIM?
NOTHING I HEARD THAT ERIC'S LOVE IS UNREQUITED SO FAR.
Nyah!
HEY ERIC!
HOW ARE THINGS BETWEEN YOU AND THE HEAD PREFECT?
HOW ARE YOU COPING?
YOU FAILED TO WIN HIM OVER, HUH?
DIDN'T THIS SAME SITUATION HAPPEN BEFORE?
YES WITH THOMAS WERNER!
EXCEPT THOMAS NEVER DARED TO POKE HIS TONGUE OUT AT US!
OH PRINCESS!
THE PRINCESS HAS MADE HER ENTRANCE!
YOUR HIGH-NESS!

YOU RASCAL!
WAH! ERIC!
ERIC!
HERE, ERIC! OVER HERE!
YOUR SEAT IS OVER HERE!
NEXT TO YOUR PRINCE!
WE SINCERELY WISH YOU ETERNAL BLISS TOGETHER!
HAVE YOU TWO MANAGED TO KISS YET?
BE QUIET!
JULI!
JULI!
DISTRIBUTE THESE PAPERS TO THE REST OF THE CLASS WE HAVE A WRITTEN TEST LASTING FIFTEEN MINUTES.
.....
SIT DOWN HERBERT
Pat
CONGRATULATIONS HEAD PREFECT JULI! AHAHA! HAHAHAHA!

SHUT UP!
thud thud thud thud
stomp stomp stomp
WAIT, ERIC! WAIT FOR US, LOVELORN MAIDEN!
HEED OUR ADVICE!
YOU'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK IF YOU DON'T PURSUE HIM TOO INTENTLY!
YES, BECAUSE ONCE A RIVAL ALWAYS A RIVAL!
SO WHEN DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GIVE UP ON HIM?
NEVER MIND, NEVER MIND WE ALL LIKE YOU!
EVEN IF WE JUST HAD A FIGHT!
!
TO HAVE A TALK WITH YOU, ERIC
I'D JUST LIKE
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?

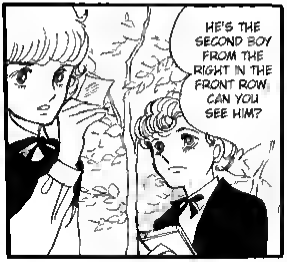
ALL I DID WAS TELL LIES DURING MASS THAT I WAS STAYING AT SCHOOL BECAUSE I LIKE JULI!
THAT'S ALL I TOLD HIM!
NOW THE NEWS HAS SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE! I'LL NEVER SPEAK TO THAT TATTLE-TALE AGAIN!
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU LIKE JULI, IT'S NO USE!
TO MAKE IT EVEN WORSE, I CONFIDED TO LIES IN ALL HONESTY.
THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE WITH THOMAS
YOU'VE —EVEN CREATED THE SAME UPROAR AT SCHOOL
THOMAS KILLED HIMSELF.
WHAT'S MORE JULI KNOWS WHY THOMAS CHOSE TO DO IT.
SO DO YOU THINK HE'LL FALL FOR YOU WHEN YOU'RE FOLLOWING IN THOMAS'S FOOTSTEPS?


I HAVE A PHOTO OF HIM, ALBEIT SMALL. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IT?

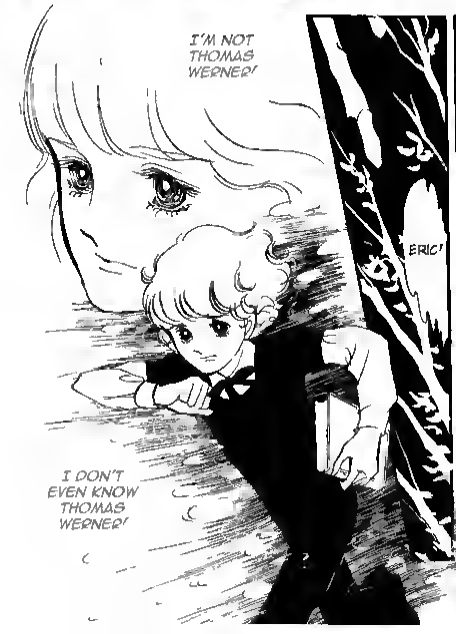


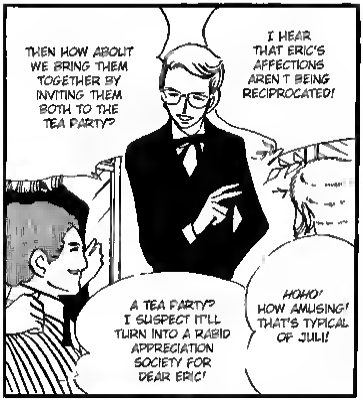
UH HUH.
BUT I DON'T KNOW THOMAS AT ALL! I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN HIS FACE!

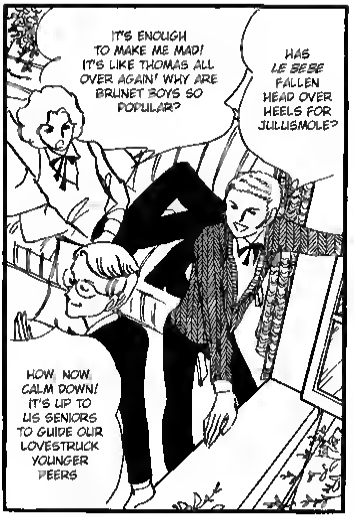
DO I REMIND YOU OF HIM
THAT MUCH?

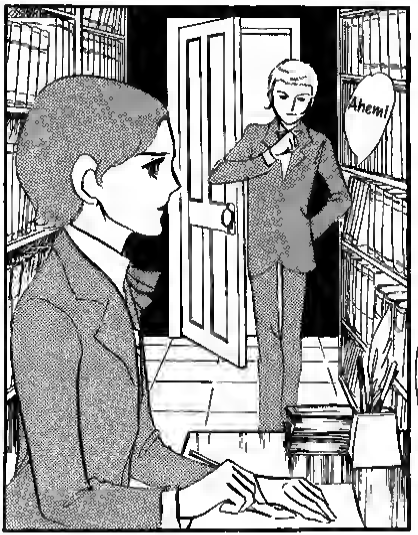

HE'S THE SECOND BOY FROM THE RIGHT IN THE FRONT ROW. CAN YOU SEE HIM?

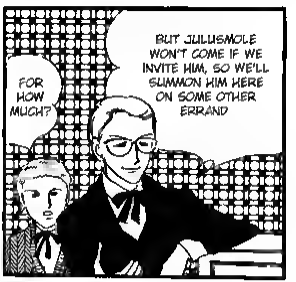
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING! IT'S TOO SMALL!


I'M NOT THOMAS WERNER!
ERIC!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW THOMAS WERNER!


THEN HOW ABOUT WE BRING THEM TOGETHER BY INVITING THEM BOTH TO THE TEA PARTY?
I HEAR THAT ERIC'S AFFECTIONS AREN'T BEING RECIPROCATED!
A TEA PARTY? I SUSPECT IT'LL TURN INTO A RABID APPRECIATION SOCIETY FOR DEAR ERIC!
HOHO! HOW AMUSING! THAT'S TYPICAL OF JULI!


IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ME MAD! IT'S LIKE THOMAS ALL OVER AGAIN! WHY ARE BRUNET BOYS SO POPULAR?
HAS LE SEBE FALLEN HEAD OVER HEELS FOR JULLISMOLE?
WOW, NOW, CALM DOWN! IT'S UP TO US SENIORS TO GUIDE OUR LOVESTRUCK YOUNGER PEERS

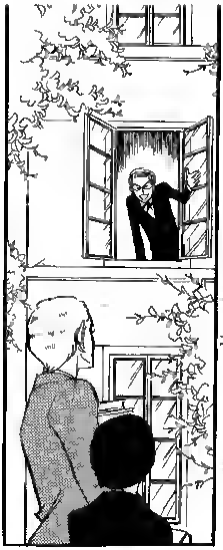




PFENNIG German penny

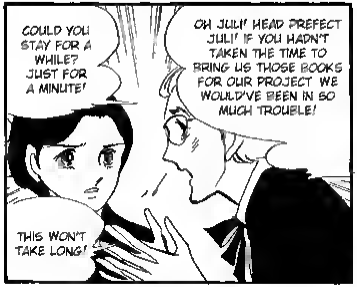
Thump
SO ARE YOU WRITING A PLAY? I'LL GET THEM READY FOR YOU
HISTORICAL CUSTOMS, HISTORICAL ATTIRE HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE HISTORY OF MUSIC AND THE COMPLETE COMPENDIUM OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC.
EXCUSE ME I RESERVED THE BOOKS ON THIS LIST, BUT I WASN'T ABLE TO COLLECT THEM YESTERDAY
I TOLD YOU I'VE ALREADY SEEN A PHOTO OF THOMAS!
BUT I'M NOT COMING WITH YOU JUST TO BE A SUBSTITUTE!
BUT I ALREADY TOLD YOU!
SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE IT'S FOR OUR GROUP PROJECT WE'RE JUST OVER HERE SORRY ABOUT THIS
IT'S NO TROUBLE AT ALL.
SORRY, BUT WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU! WE HAVE A PHOTO YOU HAVEN'T SEEN YET!
HUSH, HUSH! CALM DOWN! KEEP SMILING, ERIC FRUEHLING!
I SEE
HE HAS A FRAGILE EGO, YOU KNOW.
Wah!
I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING DON'T YOU FIND ME MUCH MORE HANDSOME THAN JULI?
YOU MORE HANDSOME? I CAN'T SEE HOW!
THERE HAVE A SEAT WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?
YOUR CURLY HAIR LOOKS MORE LOVELY THAN EVER TODAY

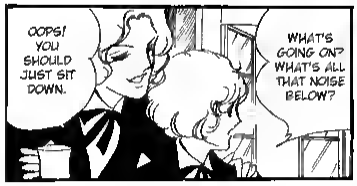
WOULD YOU MIND CARRYING THESE BOOKS UP—
WELL! IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE ON THE SECOND FLOOR WING OF JAKOB HALL!

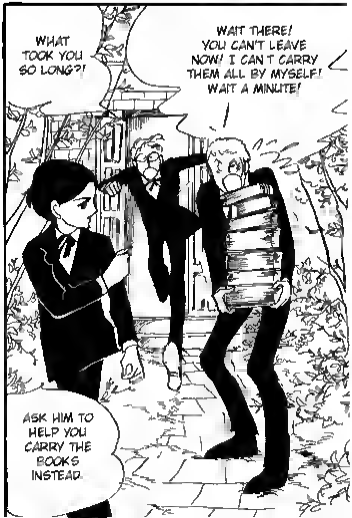


OH! HERE'S HENNING!

I'M GOING BACK TO THE LIBRARY.
SORRY
whomp
JULI!


COULD YOU STAY FOR A WHILE? JUST FOR A MINUTE!
OH JULI! HEAD PREFECT JULI! IF YOU HADN'T TAKEN THE TIME TO BRING US THOSE BOOKS FOR OUR PROJECT WE WOULD'VE BEEN IN SO MUCH TROUBLE!
THIS WON'T TAKE LONG!

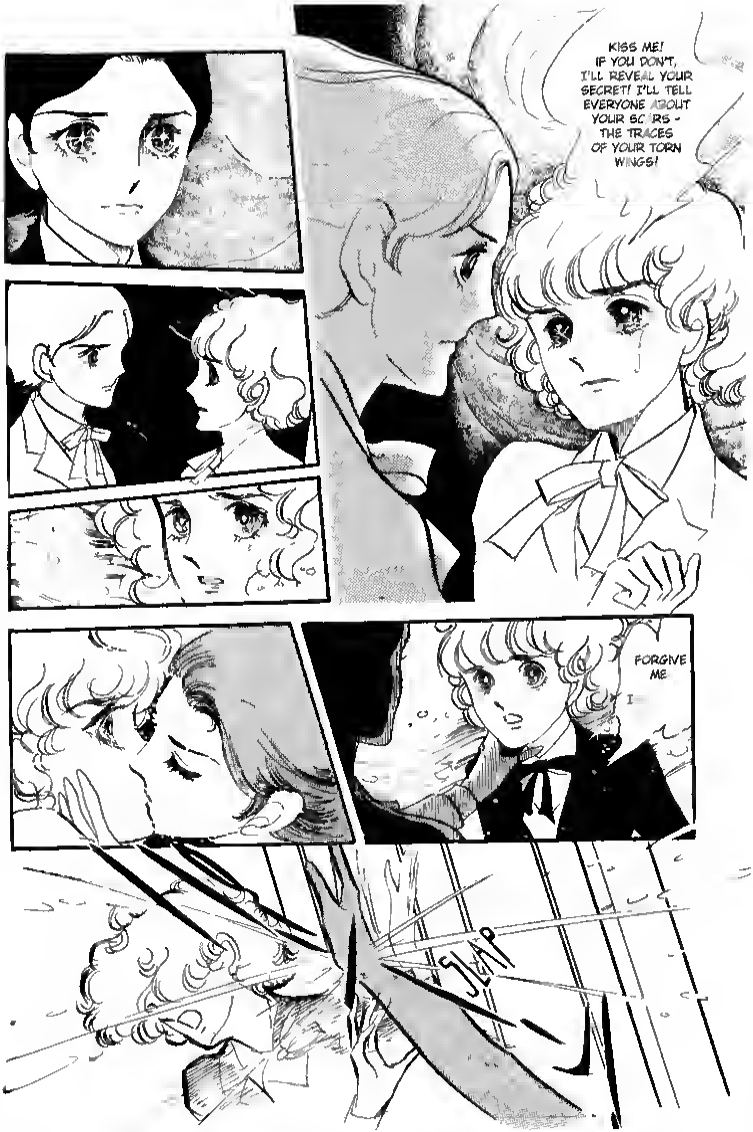

OOPS! YOU SHOULD JUST SIT DOWN.
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT'S ALL THAT NOISE BELOW?


WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?!
WAIT THERE! YOU CAN'T LEAVE NOW! I CAN'T CARRY THEM ALL BY MYSELF! WAIT A MINUTE!
ASK HIM TO HELP YOU CARRY THE BOOKS INSTEAD.

ERIC! HERE'S 200 PFENNIGS! PLUS YOU CAN HAVE ALL THE TEA YOU WANT!
Whoosh
JULI'S VOICE!
WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU WANT WITH ME?!
YOU'LL GET 100 PFENNIGS! I'LL USE FORCE IF I HAVE TO!
JULIUS
shove

SHOVE
YOU PLAY TRICKS ON US AND TREAT US LIKE PLAY-THINGS!
WAIT, ERIC! LET ME EXPLAIN!
GRRR!
#!!
JULI!
OUCH! OUCH! OUCH!
YOU FAILED DIDN'T YOU?
I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WOULD GO ACCORDING TO PLAN! JULI MUST HATE THE TEA PARTY ROOM FOR SOME REASON! BUT WE'VE NEVER HARMED HIM!
JULI!
HMM...

IT WAS A PRANK!
AT WORST, THEY WERE TRYING TO TRAP US IN THERE. SOUNDS LIKE THEY WERE WILLING TO BRIBE US TOO.
THE SAME AS BEFORE
THEY WERE MAKING SUCH A FUSS OVER YOU AND ME...
...WHEN YOU'RE FOLLOWING IN THOMAS'S FOOTSTEPS?
NO, I'M NOT HIM
SO DO YOU THINK HE'LL FALL FOR YOU
LISTEN TO ME!
I'M NOT HIM! I'M NOT HIM!
CREAK
YES, YOU ARE.
SLAM
BUT I HAVE THE UPPER HAND OVER THOMAS!


KISS ME! IF YOU DON'T, I'LL REVEAL YOUR SECRET! I'LL TELL EVERYONE ABOUT YOUR SCARS - THE TRACES OF YOUR TORN WINGS!
FORGIVE ME
I
JUMP

kachik
MARIE
IT WAS SUCH A BITTER KISS
JU
...
SLAM
FOUR STUDENTS INCLUDING SEIFRIET GAST WERE EXPELLED ON THE SAME DAY BACK IN APRIL
HM

I THREATENED HIM WITH A TERRIBLE ULTIMATUM.
I WONDER WHAT THE STUDIOUS HEAD PREFECT MUST THINK OF ME

WELL... I'M NOT SURE
kerthunk
gulp
glance
ANY THOUGHTS, ERIC?
LET'S TURN TO THE LETTERS OF RAINER MARIA RILKE. WHAT'S THE THEME OF THIS PASSAGE HERE?
click
THE AWAKENING OF THE SELF, SIR.
WHAT'S THE THEME, HEAD PREFECT?
ding dong
JULI DID REJECT HIM.
WELL...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
HMM.
thud thud
OH... I'M AFRAID I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE THEME OF THE PASSAGE NOW, ERIC?
EXACTLY! IT'S OBVIOUS! YOU KNEW THAT, DIDN'T YOU, GENTLEMEN?
glance
gulp

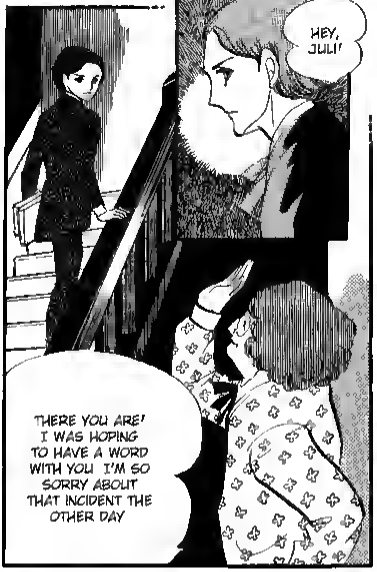
SOMETIMES A CLASS THAT'S TOO QUIET IS A BAD THING!
I SEE! WELL I KNOW I'VE BEEN SHOUTING AT YOU A LOT BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I REGARD YOU AS AN ENEMY! YOU'RE DEFINITELY A UNIQUE STUDENT AND I ADMIRE YOU A LOT!
HUH? NO, NOT REALLY, HERR BUSCH.
WAIT, ERIC FRUEHLING! HAVE YOU BEEN EATING POORLY?
YOU'RE KIDDING! WELL, JULI IS PRETTY HARD TO WIN OVER...
REJECTED? ME?
BECAUSE HE'S A DEDICATED STUDENT, RIGHT?
ERIC'S JUST LIKE THOMAS
IT WAS A PITY JULI REJECTED HIM LIKE THAT
YES AND JULI DIDN'T FALL FOR HIM EITHER
YOU WON'T LOSE HOPE, WILL YOU, ERIC?
TCH! HERR BUSCH WAS WIDE OF THE MARK, WASN'T HE?
KEEP YOUR CHIN UP. EVEN IF JULI HAS REJECTED YOU.
LOOK! I'M NOT THOMAS WERNER!
AND I HAPPEN TO LIKE JULI AS MYSELF!
I'M NOT THOMAS!

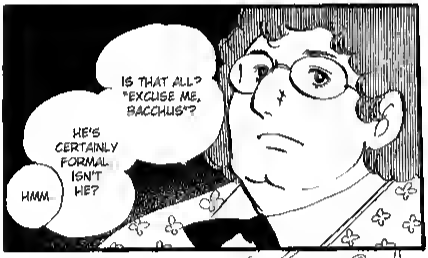
BESIDES, HE HASN'T OFFICIALLY REJECTED ME YET!
SO THAT'S WHY I STILL LIKE JULI!
ENOUGH, LE BEBE
DON'T YELL SO MUCH YOU'LL BE EMBARRASSED AT HOW EASILY OTHERS CAN HEAR YOU.
SO THAT'S WHY I STILL LIKE JULI!
I STILL LIKE JULI!
HMPH!
HE'S STILL OPTIMISTIC!
HE'S OPTIMISTIC AS EVER!

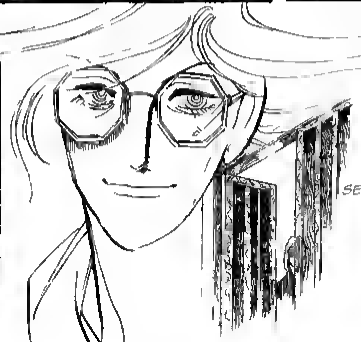
WELL PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT.
EXCUSE ME BACCHUS

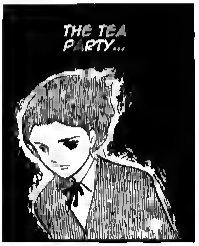
YOU MEAN THE TEA PARTY? I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ATTENDING AGAIN BUT I DON'T THINK YOU OWE ME AN APOLOGY, BACCHUS

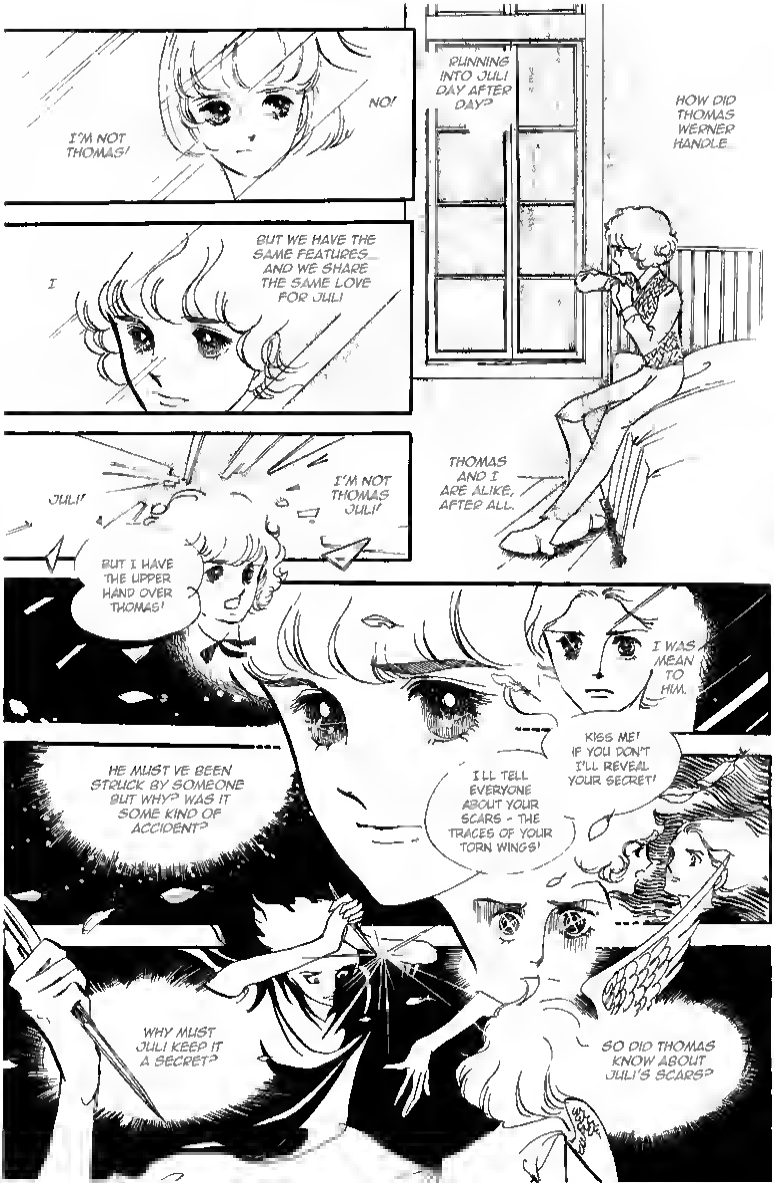
BUT I DIDN'T WARN YOU ABOUT THEIR JOKE


HEY, JULI!
THERE YOU ARE! I WAS HOPING TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU I'M SO SORRY ABOUT THAT INCIDENT THE OTHER DAY


IS THAT ALL? "EXCUSE ME, BACCHUS"?
HE'S CERTAINLY FORMAL ISN'T HE?
HMM.


SEIFRIET


THE TEA PARTY...


I'M NOT THOMAS!
NO!
I
BUT WE HAVE THE SAME FEATURES AND WE SHARE THE SAME LOVE FOR JULI
JULI!
I'M NOT THOMAS JULI!
BUT I HAVE THE UPPER HAND OVER THOMAS!
RUNNING INTO JULI DAY AFTER DAY?
HOW DID THOMAS WERNER HANDLE
THOMAS AND I ARE ALIKE, AFTER ALL.
I WAS MEAN TO HIM.
KISS ME! IF YOU DON'T I'LL REVEAL YOUR SECRET!
I'LL TELL EVERYONE ABOUT YOUR SCARS - THE TRACES OF YOUR TORN WINGS!
HE MUST VE BEEN STRUCK BY SOMEONE BUT WHY? WAS IT SOME KIND OF ACCIDENT?
WHY MUST JULI KEEP IT A SECRET?
SO DID THOMAS KNOW ABOUT JULI'S SCARS?

Wham
Wah !!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO IT
OH—I'M SORRY I WAS SO LOST IN THOUGHT THAT I DOZED OFF WITHOUT REALIZING IT.
WHY DON'T YOU LIE ON YOUR OWN BED?
I DON'T MIND YOU SLEEPING HERE, BUT THAT'S MY BED.

YOU'RE STILL HALF-ASLEEP, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE
DURING MY NAP I HAD A DREAM JULIUSMOLE... HAVE YOU CARRIED THOSE SCARS FOR A VERY LONG TIME?
DID THOMAS KNOW ABOUT THEM? IS THAT WHY... YOU KILLED HIM?
THEN WHY LET THOMAS COMMIT SUICIDE?!
...THAT YOU HOLD ME RESPONSIBLE FOR THOMAS WERNER'S DEATH?
ARE YOU SAYING...
BUT YOU ALLOWED IT TO HAPPEN BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM!
LET HIM COMMIT SUICIDE? THOMAS DIED ON HIS OWN...

I THINK YOU ACTUALLY LIKED THOMAS DIDN'T YOU?
YES, I AM.
WHY ARE WE DISCUSSING THIS? IT'S AS IF I'M TRYING TO PUSH JULI OVER THE EDGE AGAIN
YOU LIKED HIM!
BECAUSE YOU REMIND ME OF HIM.
NO, I DIDN'T.
IS THAT WHY YOU KILLED THOMAS?!
IF YOU NEVER LIKED HIM, THEN YOU WOULD'VE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT HIM! SO WHY CAN'T YOU PUT HIM OUT OF YOUR MIND?
I NEVER LIKED HIM, YOU FOOL
BECAUSE YOU LIKED HIM?! IS THAT WHY?
YOU'RE TALKING UTTER NONSENSE!
YOU ...
JULI! WHO TOOK AWAY YOUR WINGS?
WHO DID IT?
SHOW THEM TO ME! WHY DO YOU HAVE THOSE SCARS?
WHY ARE YOU LYING TO ME? WHO PUT THOSE SCARS ON YOU? WHY KEEP IT HIDDEN?
ERIC!

YOU WIN YOU HEAR ME? YOU'VE GOT THE JOKER!
YES, YOU'VE GOT THE TRUMP CARD! YOU'VE GOT THE JOKER!
IF ALL YOU WANTED WAS A KISS, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY SO?
SO GO AHEAD AND WAVE IT IN MY FACE AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE!
AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE!
GET OUT!
NO, YOU GET OUT.

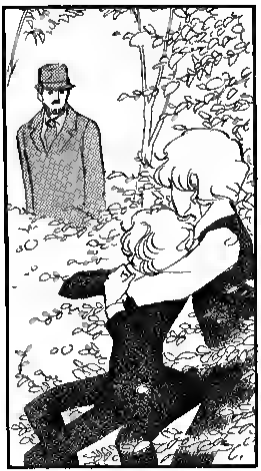
THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, ERIC I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU GOING QUIETLY
THOMAS CHOSE TO REMAIN SILENT...
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
PERHAPS WHEN I DIE I'LL BE MURDERED BY JUL!
...BUT WHEN IT'S MY TURN TO DIE, I'LL YELL OUT EVERYTHING I KNOW FROM THE ROOFTOPS!
WHEN I WAS MEAN TO HIM I MENTIONED HIS WINGS...
IT ALL BEGAN...
I WONDER HOW I ENDED UP BEING ON SUCH BAD TERMS WITH JUL!
NOTHING! STOP THAT...
WHAT DID HE TELL YOU?
THAT'S THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT! DID YOU GET TO SEE THEM? IS JUL! AN ALIEN FROM OUTER SPACE?

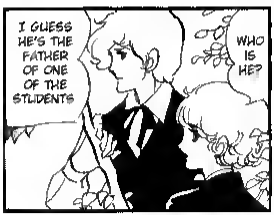
BUT JULI DOESN'T KNOW THAT I KNOW.
OSCAR! DO YOU... KNOW ABOUT THEM TOO?
HIS SCARS? YES, I KNEW I DID SHARE A ROOM WITH HIM, REMEMBER?
BUT THERE'S SO MUCH I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS JULI THINKING... TO GET HIMSELF INJURED LIKE THAT?
.....
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
OSCAR ?
WE WERE TOGETHER IN THE SAME ROOM, REMEMBER?
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
DO I...
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW!
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW!
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW, ERIC?
NO, NO! DON'T TELL ME!

REALLY? HAHAHA!

I'M SORRY, LE BEBE! I WAS TEASING YOU! I'M SORRY!
YOU'RE MARVELOUS LE BEBE! SIMPLY MARVELOUS!
Stop it!

I'LL END UP SHOWING HIM ALL MY TRUMP CARDS!
DON'T TELL ME! I NEVER THINK BEFORE I SPEAK! I'LL END UP USING IT TO HURT JULI AGAIN!
DON'T TELL ME! I'LL ONLY USE IT TO DRIVE JULI OVER THE EDGE!




I GUESS HE'S THE FATHER OF ONE OF THE STUDENTS
WHO IS HE?

OH, HERE HE IS
IT'S THE BEARDED MAN I JUST SAW OUTSIDE!
ERIC FRUEHLING!
HERR BUSCH WANTS TO SEE YOU!
HM?
OH?
creak
WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH ME? I PUT A LOT OF EFFORT IN WRITING MY LAST ESSAY!
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF MY NAME IS BERNHARD WERNER
I'M THE FATHER OF THOMAS WERNER I HOPE YOU DON T MIND
AFTER HERR BUSCH TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU, I WANTED TO SEE YOU IN PERSON.
HOW NICE TO MEET YOU, ERIC FRUEHLING.
IF YOU'RE FREE NEXT SATURDAY, I'D LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO MY HOME

WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH ME?
BUT I'M NOT VERY KEEN TO GO
WHY ASK ME OUT OF THE BLUE?
WHAT'S WRONG ?
ISN'T IT AN HONOR TO BE INVITED TO SOMEONE'S HOUSE? I HOPE YOU HAVE A NICE TIME!
BUT IT MIGHT BE INTERESTING TO GO ALONG AND FIND OUT
WHO KNOWS ?
—YET YOU HAVE THIS EERIE FEELING THAT YOU'RE LIVING IN THE SHADOW OF THIS BOY YOU'VE NEVER MET, RIGHT?
BY THE TIME YOU CAME TO THIS SCHOOL, THOMAS WAS NO MORE—
UH HUH THAT'S TRUE!
SO IF YOU DO GO, THOMAS MIGHT BECOME MORE REAL TO YOU. YOU MIGHT EVEN SEE A PHOTOGRAPH OF HIM.
hiss

REALLY?
THIS SATURDAY I'M GOING TO THOMAS'S HOUSE
HAVE YOU BEEN TO THOMAS'S HOUSE?
NO
HAVE YOU MET HIS FATHER? HE'S GOT A BEARD
WHAT ABOUT HIS MOTHER?
NO
WHAT ABOUT HIS OLDER BROTHERS?
NO
I'VE HEARD ABOUT THEM
ANYWAY, I'M GOING TO VISIT THOMAS WERNER'S HOUSE
YES AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THOMAS WERNER.
ACCORDING TO THE NEWS LEAKED BY HERR BUSCH, THE WERNER FAMILY ARE RELATIVES OF YOURS
THEY MUST BE THINKING ABOUT ADOPTING YOU AS THEIR SON
I HAD NO IDEA!
YOU'RE ALL ON YOUR OWN —
— AND THEY'VE LOST THEIR SON
WHAT'S MORE, YOU'RE THE SPITTING IMAGE OF HIM
.....
rustle
rustle

GOOD! THE ENGINE'S STARTING...
bRTTM bRTTM
THE WIND IS A BIT CHILLY!
WHERE'S YOUR HAT? PUT ON A HAT!
vroom vroom!
VROOM
RATTLE RATTLE
HE USED TO TEACH MATHEMATICS AT SCHLOTTERBETZ AND I'M SURE HE'S AN ACCREDITED LAY PREACHER AS WELL HE'S A GOOD MAN!
YOU KNOW A BIT ABOUT HERR WERNER, DON'T YOU?
rattle rattle
COME TO THINK OF IT, ONE OF MY GRANDSONS IS THE SAME AGE AS YOU! THE SAME AGE!
I HAVE SONS AND GRANDSONS, BUT THEY'RE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT DEUTSCHLAND
HMM. SHE'S UP IN HEAVEN
DO YOU HAVE A WIFE HERR BUSCH?
OCCASIONALLY I DROP BY HIS PLACE FOR A CUP OF TEA
ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO, HE LEFT HIS JOB BECAUSE HE HAD LUNG PROBLEMS.
YES INDEED, HE'S A GOOD MAN, AND HIS WIFE IS A BEAUTY!
squeak
CREAK CREAK
LOOK! WE'RE HERE! THAT'S THE HOUSE!
GRIND GRIND

OH!
NOW THEN, I'M GOING BACK TO SCHOOL. I HAVE A MOUNTAIN OF ESSAYS I NEED TO MARK!
HONK
RATTLE
HIS MOTHER HAS BLUE EYES
I WONDER IF THOMAS ALSO HAD EYES WITH THIS LOVELY SHADE OF BLUE
HIS BROTHER HAS BLUE EYES TOO
gulp!
COME IN, COME IN
SO YOU ACCEPTED MY INVITATION. WE'RE SO GLAD YOU CAME, ERIC
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MY WIFE AND ELDEST SON.

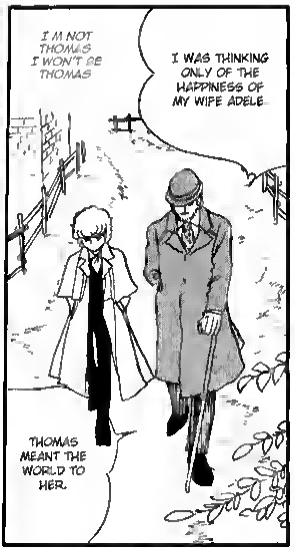
IS THAT YOU THOMAS?
YOU'RE THE SPITTING IMAGE OF HIM
YOU'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO CREATE QUITE A SENSATION!
YOU'RE WELCOME AT OUR TEA PARTY ANY TIME
I DON'T WANT TO BE REMINDED OF HIM
YOU'RE THE VERY ESSENCE OF THOMAS!
THOMAS WERNER!
YOU'RE ROGIER FRALIN'S SON AREN'T YOU? ALTHOUGH HE AND I ARE COUSINS WE HAVEN'T BEEN IN TOUCH FOR A LONG TIME—
SO YOU SEE—
FOUR MONTHS NEARLY FOUR MONTHS
SO HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT SCHLOTTERBETZ?
HOW ODD THAT WE NEVER KNEW MUCH ABOUT YOU UNTIL NOW!
YOU LOOK A LOT LIKE MY SON THOMAS IF YOUR EYES WERE MORE BLUE YOU'D BE A PERFECT MATCH—
NO THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE WE HAD HEARD OF YOU
—THAT MAKES US BLOOD RELATIVES
THIS MUST COME AS A GREAT SHOCK TO YOU

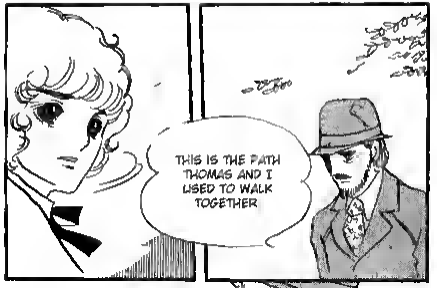
WHY SHOULD I?
.....
THAT'S WHY, IF YOU'RE WILLING OF COURSE, WE'D LIKE YOU TO BE PART OF OUR FAMILY
HERR BRAUN ISN'T IN A POSITION TO CARE FOR YOU. HE RECONSIDERED HIS SITUATION, AND THE FACT IS HE HAS TOO MANY OTHER COMMITMENTS
AS PART OF HIS SEARCH FOR A SUITABLE GUARDIAN FOR YOU, HERR KIMBURG NOTIFIED US ABOUT YOUR STATUS AS AN ORPHAN
OH, ERIC
I'M A FIRST YEAR SENIOR
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
SO YOU'RE A YEAR OLDER THAN THOMAS YOU'RE A BIT SHORT FOR A 14-YEAR-OLD, AREN'T YOU?
OH MY! WE'VE BROUGHT THIS SUBJECT UP SO ABRUPTLY! OUR HASTE MUST BE INTIMIDATING FOR YOU, ERIC!
WELL, THE TRUTH IS
BUT WE'VE KEPT IT EXACTLY THE SAME AS BEFORE AND WE HAVEN'T TOUCHED A THING. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IT?
WHY?
IT'S QUITE A SMALL ROOM
IS THOMAS'S BEDROOM
JUST UPSTAIRS

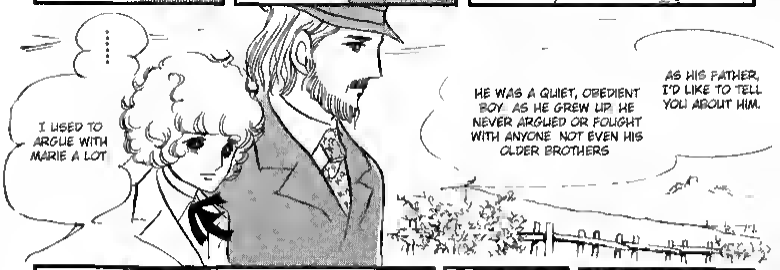
...BUT I WON'T SUDDENLY BE THOMAS
I COULD GO INTO HIS ROOM...
I GUESS...
WELL, I...
THAT'S WHAT HE TOLD ME
HE SAID WE OUGHT TO LIVE TOGETHER... BECAUSE WE BOTH LOVED MARIE
I'M GOING TO LIVE WITH SZYD. WHEN I'M WITH HIM, I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING THOMAS
THOMAS IS GONE! HE'S NEVER COMING BACK!
MOTHER!
YES. I'VE MADE UP MY MIND
SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO LIVE WITH HERR SZYD SCHWARTZ?
.....
IT'S TRUE! YOU'RE NOT THOMAS! YOU'RE NOT THOMAS!

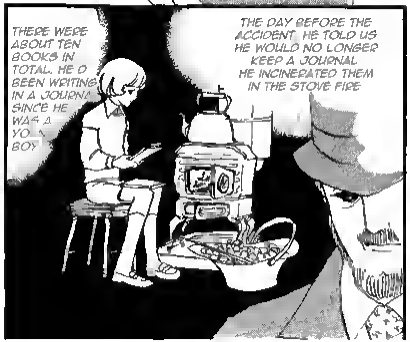
PLEASE
PLEASE WAIT!
I'LL GO WITH YOU
I'M LEAVING NOW
I WON'T COME BACK
IF YOU EVER WISH TO DROP BY, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE WELCOME IN OUR HOME
PLEASE WAIT! I'M SORRY I'M SO SORRY FOR CRYING LIKE THIS DON'T FEEL BAD ABOUT IT
TAKE CARE
TAKE CARE
YES YES, ALL RIGHT
PLEASE FORGIVE ME
I
THOMAS WERNER'S FAMILY
CAN NEVER BE MY FAMILY
THOMAS WERNER'S HOME
CAN NEVER BE MY HOME

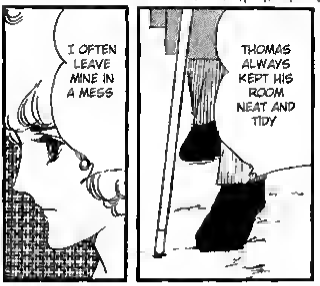
HOW COULD I POSSIBLY BE A MERE SHADOW OF THOMAS FOR THEM?
THEY DIDN'T WANT ME, ERIC FRUEHLING FROM THE START


I'M NOT THOMAS I WON'T BE THOMAS
I WAS THINKING ONLY OF THE HAPPINESS OF MY WIFE ADELE.
THOMAS MEANT THE WORLD TO HER.


THIS IS THE PATH THOMAS AND I USED TO WALK TOGETHER


.....
I USED TO ARGUE WITH MARIE A LOT
HE WAS A QUIET, OBEDIENT BOY. AS HE GREW UP, HE NEVER ARGUED OR FOUGHT WITH ANYONE. NOT EVEN HIS OLDER BROTHERS
AS HIS FATHER, I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT HIM.

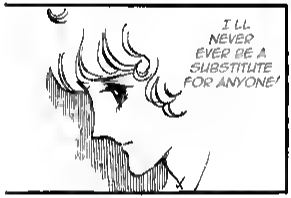

THERE WERE ABOUT TEN BOOKS IN TOTAL. HE'D BEEN WRITING IN A JOURNAL SINCE HE WAS A YOUNG BOY.
THE DAY BEFORE THE ACCIDENT, HE TOLD US HE WOULD NO LONGER KEEP A JOURNAL. HE INCINERATED THEM IN THE STOVE FIRE.


I OFTEN LEAVE MINE IN A MESS
THOMAS ALWAYS KEPT HIS ROOM NEAT AND TIDY

HE WOULDN'T HAVE REACHED YOUR SHOULDER BACK THEN
— A LONG LONG TIME AGO
WHAT WAS HE REALLY THINKING AT THE TIME? NOW THAT HE'S LEFT US, THERE'S NO WAY FOR US TO KNOW— HOWEVER, I CLEARLY REMEMBER THIS CONVERSATION WE HAD —
— CREATED BY GOD TO FEEL AN EMOTION LIKE LONELINESS? IT'S AS IF WE'RE NOT MEANT TO LIVE LIFE ON OUR OWN.
FATHER, WHY WERE WE—
— SOMEDAY WE TOO SHALL SOAR UP THERE
— HAVE ETERNAL LIFE
JUST AS THIS FLOWER RELEASES ITS SEED—
IT'S A REMINDER THAT HUMANS THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE—
I GUESS HE HAD HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT IT AT SUNDAY SCHOOL.
IN THE SAME WAY ONE DAY WE TOO SHALL BE ONE IN BODY WITH GOD—
SEE? IT'S FLOATING ON THE WIND. IT'S NOW ONE WITH NATURE AND GOD. IT HAS FOUND ETERNAL LIFE

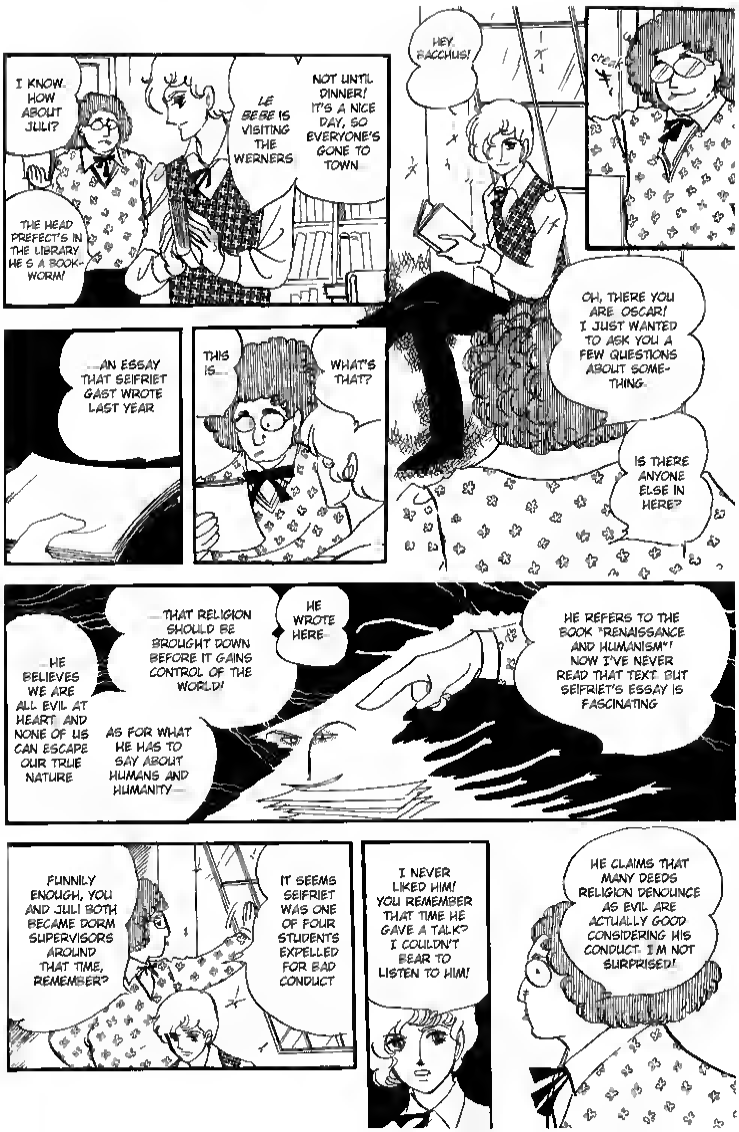
FAREWELL ALTHOUGH YOUR STAY WAS BRIEF, WE SHALL MISS YOU
I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST IN THE FUTURE
THEREFORE, WE CAN'T LIVE A LIFE WITHOUT LOVE
WE ALL FEEL LONELY
NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRY
SO YOU AND I ARE ALIKE AFTER ALL THOMAS WERNER
IF ONLY I'D TAKEN A LOOK INSIDE YOUR ROOM
AND YOU CAME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION AS I DID
YOU THOUGHT LONG AND HARD ABOUT THIS ON YOUR OWN...
JULLISMOLE.
I GUESS YOU FELT LONELY LIKE ME IN SPITE OF ALL YOU HAD
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING MORE

NO MATTER IF I HAVE THE FEATURES
OF A THOMAS OR AN ERIC OR SOMEONE ELSE

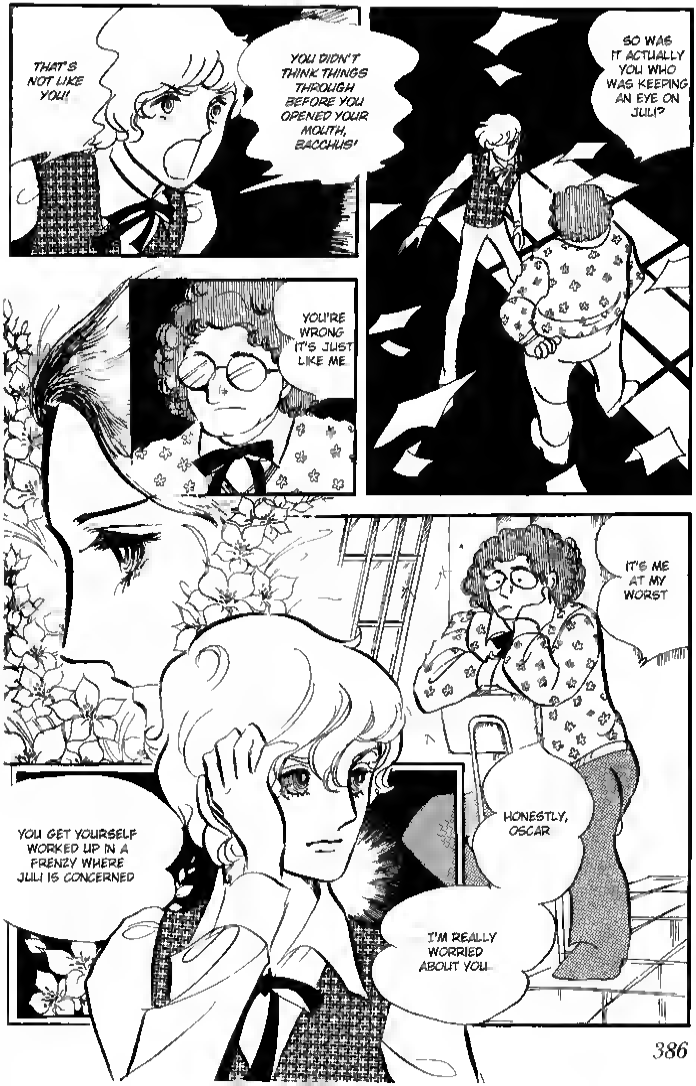

I'LL NEVER EVER BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR ANYONE!

I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT WE WERE BOTH SEARCHING FOR THE SAME THING
DID I REALLY HAVE TO BE YOU? IT MADE NO SENSE TO ME.
BUT I HAVE A FEELING YOU'VE BEEN WALKING HAND IN HAND WITH ME THE WHOLE TIME THUS FAR LEADING ME TO WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

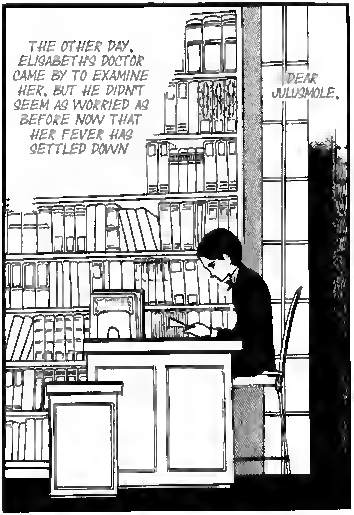
IN THE END, I'LL FACE JULI WITH THESE WORDS
I'M NOT CONVINCED THAT YOU HAVE EYES FOR NO ONE JULI
THE MOST IMPORTANT WORDS OF ALL!
I'M NOT CONVINCED THAT YOU LOVE NO ONE JULI
FOR WE ALL LOVE YOU!


I KNOW. HOW ABOUT JULI?
LE BEBE IS VISITING THE WERNERS
NOT UNTIL DINNER! IT'S A NICE DAY, SO EVERYONE'S GONE TO TOWN
THE HEAD PREFECT'S IN THE LIBRARY. HE'S A BOOKWORM!
HEY, FACCHUS!
CREAK
OH, THERE YOU ARE OSCAR! I JUST WANTED TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT SOMETHING.
IS THERE ANYONE ELSE IN HERE?
—AN ESSAY THAT SEIFRIET GAST WROTE LAST YEAR
THIS IS—
WHAT'S THAT?
—HE BELIEVES WE ARE ALL EVIL AT HEART AND NONE OF US CAN ESCAPE OUR TRUE NATURE
—THAT RELIGION SHOULD BE BROUGHT DOWN BEFORE IT GAINS CONTROL OF THE WORLD!
HE WROTE HERE
AS FOR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY ABOUT HUMANS AND HUMANITY—
HE REFERS TO THE BOOK "RENAISSANCE AND HUMANISM"! NOW I'VE NEVER READ THAT TEXT, BUT SEIFRIET'S ESSAY IS FASCINATING
FUNNILY ENOUGH, YOU AND JULI BOTH BECAME DORM SUPERVISORS AROUND THAT TIME, REMEMBER?
IT SEEMS SEIFRIET WAS ONE OF FOUR STUDENTS EXPELLED FOR BAD CONDUCT
I NEVER LIKED HIM! YOU REMEMBER THAT TIME HE GAVE A TALK? I COULDN'T BEAR TO LISTEN TO HIM!
HE CLAIMS THAT MANY DEEDS RELIGION DENOUNCE AS EVIL ARE ACTUALLY GOOD CONSIDERING HIS CONDUCT. I'M NOT SURPRISED!

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO SAY?
YET YOU AVOIDED EXPULSION BECAUSE OF YOUR CLOSE TIES TO THE HEADMASTER.
I GUESS I'M SAYING TOO MUCH BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE MIXED UP WITH SEIFRIET'S GROUP IN SOMETHING UNDERHANDED AT THE TIME.
IN EXCHANGE, I GUESS JULI WAS INSTALLED AS YOUR ROOM-MATE TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU
IT ALL BEGAN LAST MARCH.
SHORTLY AFTER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.
BACCHUS!
crush
.....
BUT SEIFRIET AND HIS FRIENDS USED TO CONGREGATE
JULI NEVER CAME TO THE TEA PARTY
.ON THE SECOND FLOOR WING OF JAKOB HALL, RIGHT?
JULI HAS A BURN MARK BELOW HIS NECK, DOESN'T HE?
BACCHUS!
AND I RECALL THAT DURING THE LAST EASTER HOLIDAYS
JULI STAYED BEHIND AT SCHOOL
slap


THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU!
YOU DIDN'T THINK THINGS THROUGH BEFORE YOU OPENED YOUR MOUTH, BACCHUS!
SO WAS IT ACTUALLY YOU WHO WAS KEEPING AN EYE ON JULI?
YOU'RE WRONG IT'S JUST LIKE ME
IT'S ME AT MY WORST
HONESTLY, OSCAR
I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU
YOU GET YOURSELF WORKED UP IN A FRENZY WHERE JULI IS CONCERNED

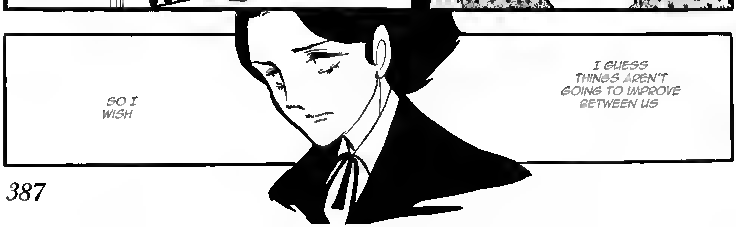
SHE IS ALWAYS SO GLAD WHEN WE RECEIVE MAIL FROM YOU
PLEASE TRY TO USE MORE SIMPLE WORDS WHEN YOU WRITE SHE WANTS TO READ YOUR LETTERS TOO


DEAR JULIJMOLE,
THE OTHER DAY, ELISABETH'S DOCTOR CAME BY TO EXAMINE HER, BUT HE DIDN'T SEEM AS WORRIED AS BEFORE NOW THAT HER FEVER HAS SETTLED DOWN

THE WHITE DOVE IS ME
AND THIS ANGEL HERE IS YOU JULI!

ERIC'S GONE TO HERR WEGNER'S HOUSE

whew


SO I WISH
I GUESS THINGS AREN'T GOING TO IMPROVE BETWEEN US

JULI'S BEEN ACTING STRANGE
I DON'T BELIEVE IT, THOUGH
SOME OF THE JUNIOR BOYS—
HAVE BEEN SAYING THAT THOMAS KILLED HIMSELF.
NO. I DON'T.
DO YOU?
BUT JULI'S BEEN ACTING STRANGE HE'S NOT HIMSELF
I WISH SOMEONE WOULD TAKE CUSTODY OF ERIC. I DON'T CARE WHETHER IT'S SCHWARTZ OR WERNER
I WISH HE WAS OUT OF MY SIGHT
I LIKE YOU
I LIKE YOU
IT HURTS TOO MUCH
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THOSE WORDS AGAIN
I LIKE YOU

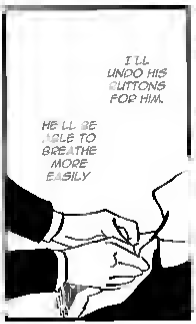
THEY SHOULD BE GETTING ALONG WELL TOGETHER.
THEY'RE EVEN SHARING THE SAME ROOM.
ERIC HAS DECLARED HIS FEELINGS FOR JULI, RIGHT?
BUT THEY'RE NOT EVEN TALKING, AND IT MAKES NO SENSE!
ERIC'S BEEN A NICE BOY ALL ALONG SO HE CAN'T BE THE PROBLEM LIKE I SAID HE'S BEEN A NICE BOY
BACCHUS
...BUT I'D LIKE TO HELP IN ANY WAY I CAN
SO MAYBE I CAN'T DO MUCH...
!!!
MM.
I ALSO HAD NO IDEA AT THE TIME
I HAD NO REASON TO SUSPECT ANYTHING WAS AMISS
WAS SEIFRIET RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SCAR ON JULI'S NECK?
NEITHER YOU NOR I CAN DO MUCH FOR JULI

STUDENTS WERE RETURNING BACK TO SCHOOL ON THE EARLY MORNING TRAIN
clang
A COUPLE OF WEEKS AFTER EASTER
ONE MORNING LAST SPRING
wham
GOOD MORNING!
thud
thud
WE WERE FOURTH YEAR INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS AT THE TIME
GOOD MORNING
GOOD MORNING, JULI!
I WENT HITCH-HIKING! I HAD A GREAT TIME!
BUT THE FEMALE DRIVERS NEVER STOP FOR ME!
WE WERE IN A ROOM OF SIX THAT WAS RIGHT ABOVE THE ROOM NOW OCCUPIED BY ANTE AND HIS FRIENDS
GOOD MORNING!
OH!
GOOD MORNING, OSCAR!
HI!
WHAT DID YOU DO DURING THE BREAK?

HEY! WHY THE LACK OF INTEREST?
pat
HIS LITTLE SISTER WAS SO ILL SHE HAD TO BE TAKEN TO HOSPITAL AND NO ONE ELSE WAS AT HOME
I KNEW WHY JULI HAD STAYED BEHIND AT SCHOOL.
NEXT TIME LET'S GO HITCHHIKING TOGETHER, JULI!
IT'S GREAT FUN!
ALL RIGHT.
HUH? OH
JULI HAS A HEADACHE I THINK HE'S CATCHING A COLD
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SEEM AWFULLY QUIET
HOW COULD HE CATCH A COLD IF HE STAYED HERE AT SCHOOL ON HIS OWN?
ding dong
YOU FOOL!
THE BELL FOR MASS!
SLAM
JU—
SLAM
SLAM

HE LOST HIS FOOTING ON THE STAIRS!
JULI! JULI! WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?
OSCAR PUSHED HIM!
OH NO!
JULI!
JULI!
GET OUT! GO TO MASS!
YOU'RE ALL IN THE WAY!
HE'S OUT COLD! I'LL TAKE HIM TO MY ROOM FOR NOW!
WHAT WAS THAT?! YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
AHA! COME HERE! COULD YOU WATCH JULI FOR ME? I HAVE TO BE AT MASS
I THINK IT'S A MILD CONCUSSION— BUT I'LL CALL FOR HERR ARZT RIGHT AWAY!
Slam

JULI?
.....
UH...

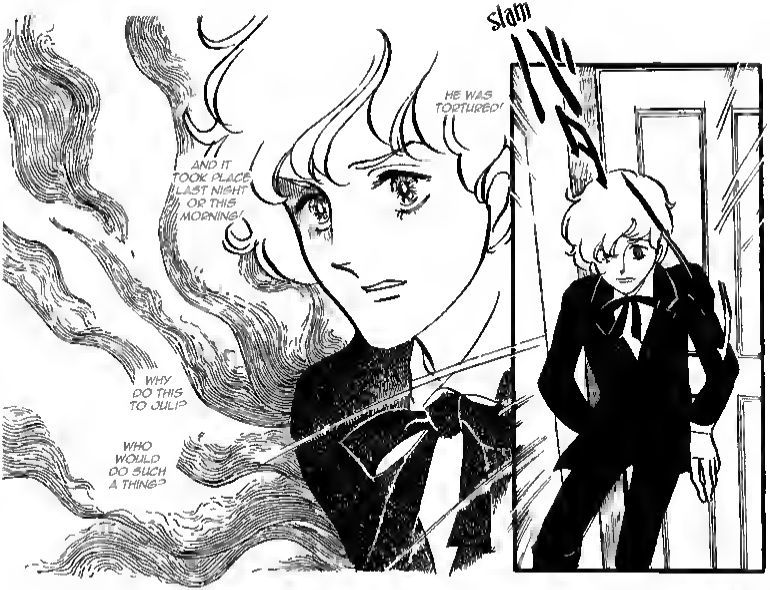

I'LL UNDO HIS BUTTONS FOR HIM.
HE'LL BE ABLE TO BREATHE MORE EASILY

I WONDER IF I SHOULD REMOVE SOME OF HIS CLOTHES
WHAT SHOULD I DO? DOES JULI HAVE A FEVER? SOMEONE DID SAY HE MIGHT HAVE CAUGHT A COLD

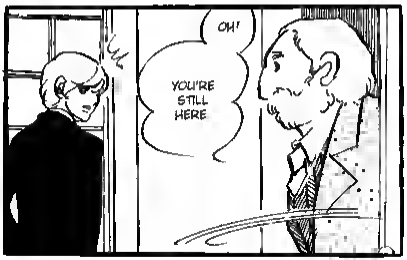
THE TEMPERATURE OF A BURNING CIGARETTE IS AT LEAST 600 DEGREES CELSIUS
.....
A RAW WOUND WITH REMNANTS OF ASH

.....

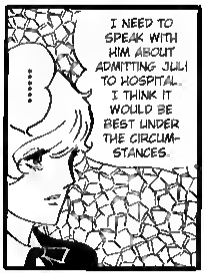
UGH
IS THAT BLOOD?
BUT THIS THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE
I ONCE GOT A CIGARETTE BURN WHEN I CARELESSLY LEFT MY HAND NEAR THE FLAME IT WAS DUMB OF ME
YES, HE IS
WELL, I BETTER GO
kachik
IS THE PATIENT IN HERE?
VSSH
pun
tie

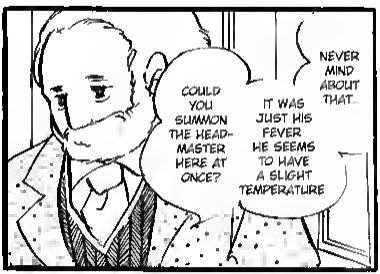

HE WAS TORTURED!
AND IT TOOK PLACE LAST NIGHT OR THIS MORNING!
WHY DO THIS TO JULI?
WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING?
Slam

I SLAPPED HIM ON THE BACK WITHOUT THINKING AND THEN HE FELL DOWN THE STAIRS
YES.
HE SAID HE HAD A HEADACHE EARLIER AS WELL


OH!
YOU'RE STILL HERE

YES, SIR

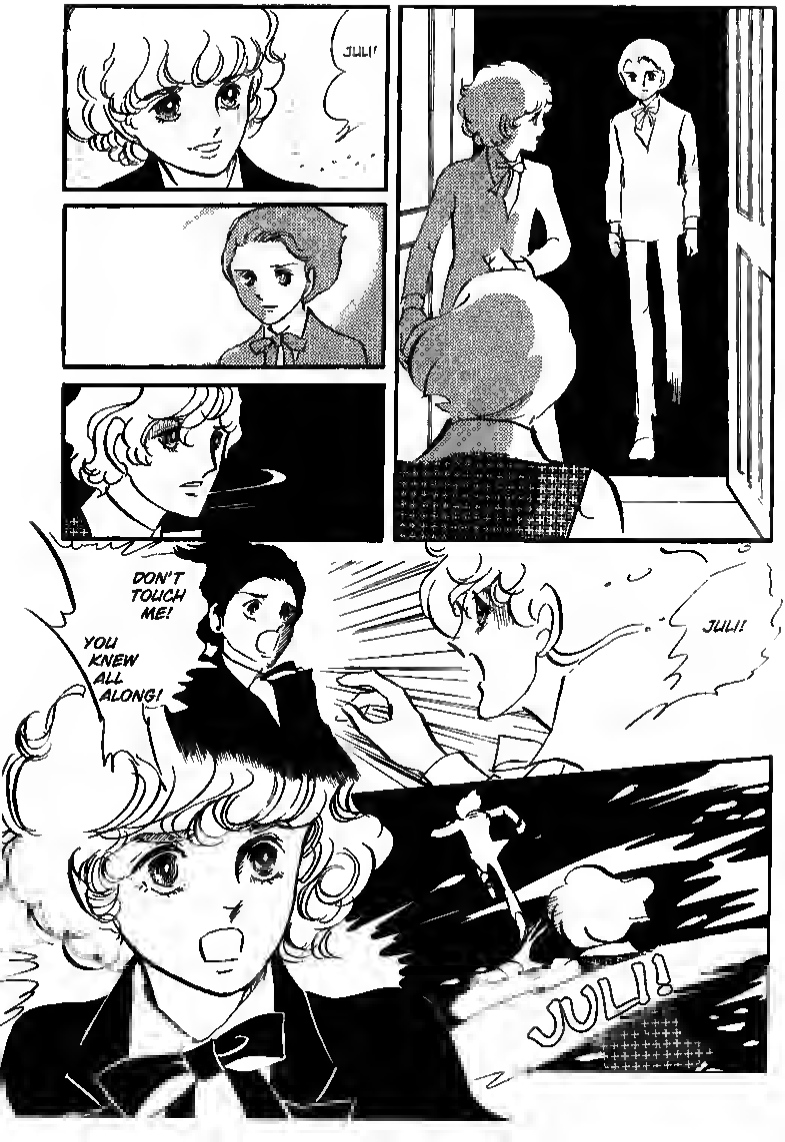

.....
I NEED TO SPEAK WITH HIM ABOUT ADMITTING JULI TO HOSPITAL. I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.


NEVER MIND ABOUT THAT.
IT WAS JUST HIS FEVER HE SEEMS TO HAVE A SLIGHT TEMPERATURE
COULD YOU SUMMON THE HEAD-MASTER HERE AT ONCE?

JULI WAS ILL, BUT HE WASN'T TAKEN TO HOSPITAL.
THEY GOT HOLD OF JULI
THEY GOT HOLD OF HIM.
BUT I'M CERTAIN THAT LOT STAYED BEHIND AT SCHOOL DURING EASTER
THAT WAS WEIRD, WASN'T IT?
THEY EVEN SET FIRE TO THE SCIENCE LAB!
THREE DAYS LATER, SEIFRIET WAS ONE OF FOUR STUDENTS WHO ABRUPTLY LEFT THE SCHOOL OSTENSIBLY DUE TO THEIR DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR
YES SIR
THOSE FELLOWS WERE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!
YES! THEY WERE SMOKING DRINKING AND GAMBLING!
ME TOO! ME TOO! THAT'S WHY I'M JOINING HIM AS A DORM SUPERVISOR!
IS THAT WHY HE HAS HIS OWN ROOM?
NO. HE'S GOT LOW BLOOD PRESSURE
SO DOES JULI HAVE A WEAK HEART?
HERR ARZT INSISTED THAT JULI NEEDED TO HAVE A PRIVATE ROOM.
I'M DORM HEAD AND THAT'S MY ROOM!
BUT YOU CAN'T KEEP YOUR PATIENT IN THERE!
THEN HOW ABOUT YOU LET JULI TAKE ON THAT ROLE?
HE HAD BEEN CARRIED INTO HERR HOMANN'S ROOM, AND THAT'S WHERE HE STAYED
...AND EVERYONE FORGOT ALL ABOUT JULI'S ILLNESS
FOUR DAYS LATER JULI STOOD AT THE PULPIT
WELL, THERE WERE MUTTERINGS THAT I KNEW THE HEADMASTER AND I WAS A YEAR OLDER THAN THE OTHER BOYS

AND YOU?
ME? WHAT ELSE COULD I DO?!
TO
BOTH MENTAL AND PHYSICAL
CARRIES THE SCARS
NOTHING MUCH HAPPENED EXCEPT JULI
NOTHING MUCH HAPPENED AFTER THAT PLANTS BLOSSOMED AND SPRING BECAME SUMMER
EXCEPT JULI...
SO WHAT HAPPENED WHEN YOU VISITED HERR WERNER?
WHEN I SEE JULI, I'LL HAVE TO TELL HIM
ERIC!
JULI
WHERE ARE YOU, JULI? IN THE LIBRARY? IN THE PRIVATE STUDY ROOM?

EXCEPT REPEAT THE WORDS "I LIKE YOU" UNTIL YOU BELIEVE ME
I'M NOT JEALOUS OF THOMAS,
BUT THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO...
WAH! ERIC!
BUT HOW ON EARTH CAN I...
PUT SEIFRIET BEHIND YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL!
JULI, FORGET THAT SCOUNDREL SEIFRIET!
I WATCH OVER JULI EACH DAY, YET I WANT TO SHAKE HIM BY THE SHOULDER AND JUST TELL HIM ONE THING!
WHAT ELSE... COULD I DO?
HUH? WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU WERE SAYING THAT JULI SHOULD PUT SEIFRIET BEHIND HIM...
WHO IS SEIFRIET?
clatter
DID YOU OVERHEAR WHAT I JUST SAID?!

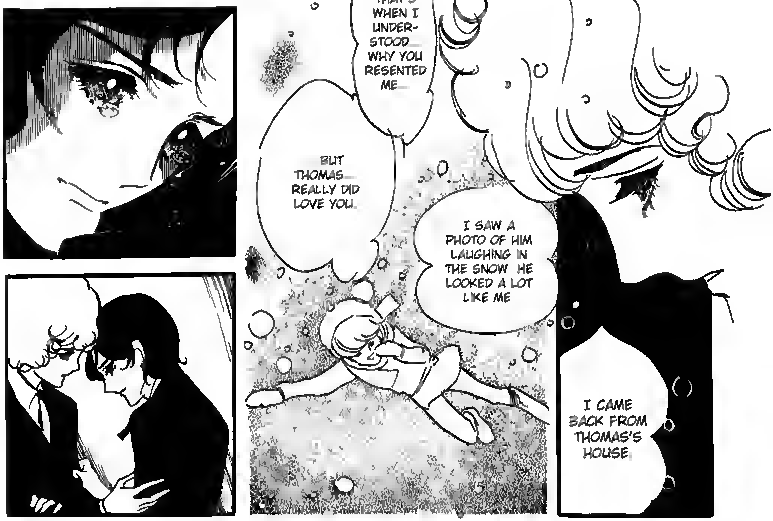

JULI!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
YOU KNEW ALL ALONG!
JULI!
JULI!

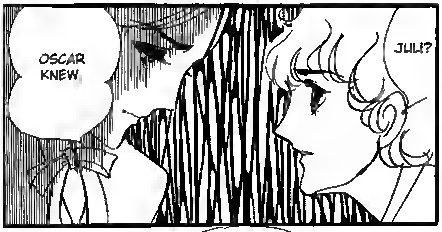
"PUT SEIFRIET BEHIND YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL."
HE KNEW!
HE KNEW!
OSCAR...
...KNEW ALL ALONG!
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING ABOUT JULI?
JU-
HUH?

ERIC!
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING? WHAT ABOUT SEIFRIET? WHO IS HE?
...!
WHY DID JULI RUN AWAY?!
OH NO!
dong
dong
I NEVER MEANT TO DRIVE YOU OVER THE EDGE!
JULI, I NEVER MEANT THIS TO HAPPEN!
WHERE IS HE?
JULI
IS NOT HERE!
dong

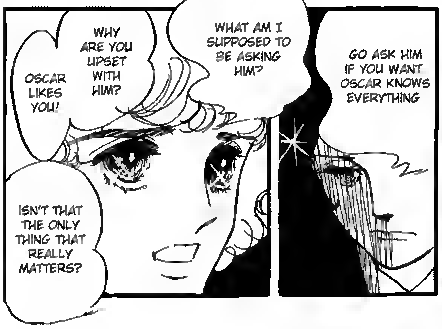
I...
MOI?
JULIUSMOI?
WHAT'S WRONG?

ONCE I TRIED TO KILL MYSELF BY STRANGLING MY OWN NECK
BUT I FAILED AT THE TIME
AH
AH...
AAH!
AH...


I CAME BACK FROM THOMAS'S HOUSE
I SAW A PHOTO OF HIM LAUGHING IN THE SNOW HE LOOKED A LOT LIKE ME
BUT THOMAS REALLY DID LOVE YOU
THAT'S WHEN I UNDERSTOOD WHY YOU RESENTED ME


OSCAR KNEW
JULI?

JULI!
GO!


ISN'T THAT THE ONLY THING THAT REALLY MATTERS?
OSCAR LIKES YOU!
WHY ARE YOU UPSET WITH HIM?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO BE ASKING HIM?
GO ASK HIM IF YOU WANT OSCAR KNOWS EVERYTHING

YES, DESPITE EVERY-THING!
DESPITE EVERY-THING I'VE DONE?
YES, I LIKE YOU
YOU'VE KNOWN IT ALL ALONG, SO WHY WON'T YOU BELIEVE ME?
DO YOU LIKE ME?
EVEN WHEN YOU KNOW THE TRUTH?
EVEN WHEN I TELL YOU THE REASON FOR MY SCARS?
EVEN THOUGH I'M A MURDERER? EVEN THOUGH I'M A TRAITOR?
UH HUH
JUU
EVEN THOUGH I'M A DEVIL IN DISGUISE?
THERE'S SOMETHING EVEN HE DOESN'T KNOW
AND OSCAR STILL LIKES YOU REGARDLESS!
BUT OSCAR KNOWS, DOESN'T HE?
CIGA-RETTE?

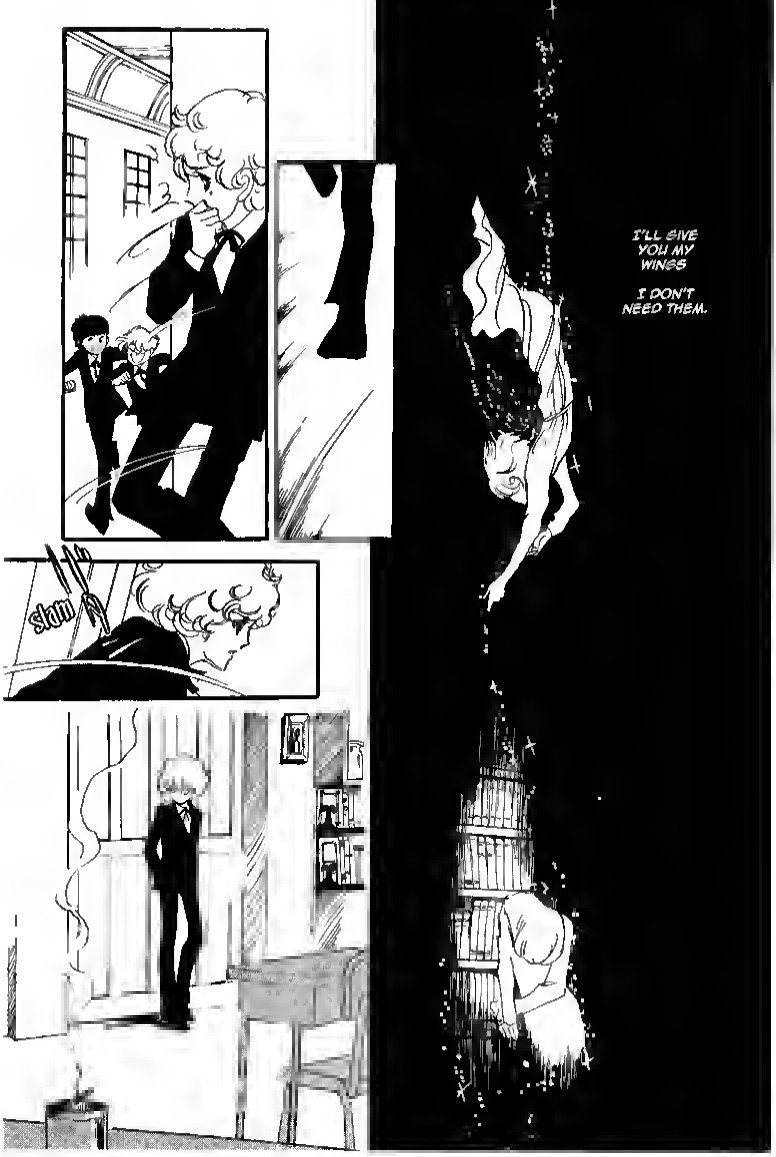
FIVE OR SIX BLOWS SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
ポキリ
crack
WE'LL HAVE A FIGHT!!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO HIM!
HM
BUT HE WON'T CHANGE HIS ATTITUDE HE'S A VERY STUBBORN PERSON
EXACTLY, EXACTLY! A LITTLE PUMMELING SHOULD RESTORE JULI'S FIGHTING SPIRIT!
YOU WANT TO PROVOKE JULI INTO ACTION?
AND NEITHER WOULD THOMAS IF YOU KNEW WHAT KIND OF PERSON I WAS. YOU WOULDN'T BE SAYING YOU LIKE ME
JULI!
NONE OF YOU WOULD FORGIVE ME...
IF YOU ALL KNEW...
THAT PRANK ABOUT HIM LOVING ME... IT WAS NEVER A PRANK AT ALL!
I KNOW ALL THAT!
I EVEN KNOW HOW HE STOOD BENEATH THE TREES JUST SO HE COULD WATCH ME!
HE REALLY LIKED YOU IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING!
THAT'S UNTRUE! THOMAS LIKED YOU!
WHY CAN'T YOU SEE? HE—

HOW COULD I?!
I'D LOST MY WINGS!
YOU TOLD THOMAS YOU NEVER WANTED TO KNOW HIM!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TRUST HIM? WHY, JULI?
YES, THOMAS LOVED ME,
BUT WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT IT?
YOU KNEW
THEN WHY
THE DAY HAS COME TO REAP AND GATHER ALL BEFORE GOD!
GABRIEL, GABRIEL SOUND YOUR TRUMPET!
SOUND YOUR TRUMPET, ANGEL GABRIEL!
NO ONE SHALL CRY OR LAUGH FOR THE THE SINNERS WHEN THE WORLD COMES TO AN END!
I HAVE NO WINGS!
WINGS?
YOU MEAN WINGS TO ASCEND UP TO HEAVEN?
...WERE TORN OFF!
WON'T YOU... HAVE ANY?
MY WINGS

I COULD GIVE YOU ONE OF MINE...
IF I'M GRANTED WINGS WOULD MY WINGS BE NO USE TO YOU?
ARE MY WINGS NO USE TO YOU?
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE WINGS, YOU...
IF YOU'D LIKE BOTH MY WINGS, I'LL GIVE THEM TO YOU. I DON'T NEED THEM
ERIC!
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GO UP TO BE WITH THOMAS...

JULY3MOLE!
JULY3MOLE!
HERE IS MY LOVE.
ON THE LAST SNOWY DAY BEFORE SPRING THOMAS JUMPED TO HIS DEATH.
THESE WERE THE ONLY WORDS HE LEFT FOR ME.
ERIC!
FINALLY I UNDERSTAND
WHAT THEY MEAN
SURELY YOU...
...YOU WILL UNDERSTAND.
THOMAS WERNER I
HERE IS THE SOUND OF MY HEART

DO YOU LIKE ME JUST A LITTLE?
JULIUSMOLE! JULIUSMOLE!
YOU LOVE NO ONE?
DOES THAT MEAN
JULIUS-MOLE!
I...
WAS ...
WRONG
BUT CAN YOU LIVE LIKE THIS
FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?
JULIUS-MOLE!
JULIUS-MOLE!
I LOVED YOU ALL ALONG, THOMAS
I LOVED YOU ALL ALONG.


I'LL GIVE YOU MY WINGS
I DON'T NEED THEM.
slam

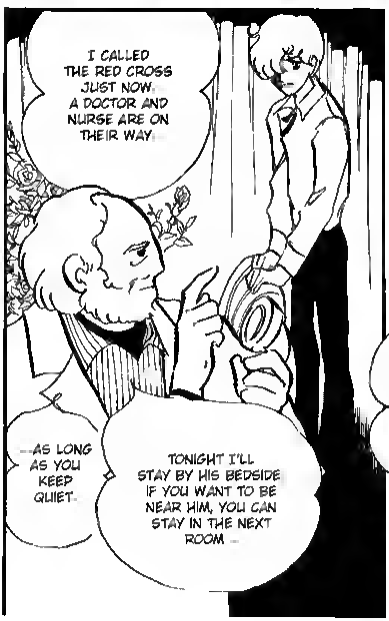
JULI SAW THOMAS WHEN HE LAID EYES ON ME
FROM THE VERY FIRST DAY I CAME TO THIS SCHOOL
BLOND-HAIRED BLUE-EYED ...MOUR.
EACH DAY HE DREAMED HE HEARD HIM IN THE FAINT MUSIC OF THE WIND.
IS A BURNING CIGARETTE HOT?
IS IT HOT? HOW HOT

crush
WERE YOU ABOUT TO POKE THIS BURNING STUB IN YOUR EYE?
wham
OSCAR!
Wah!
COME QUICK! IT'S HEAD-MASTER MUELLER!

HE SUDDENLY COLLAPSED HERE JUST NOW
UNCONSCIOUS? WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO HIM?
Gachik
HE'S INSIDE, BUT HE'S UNCONSCIOUS. I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO IN YET.
COLLAPSED?
I SUSPECT HE'S BEEN KEEPING HIS CONDITION TO HIMSELF THE WHOLE TIME. HE KEPT CALLING OUT YOUR NAME A WHILE AGO
HIS FIRST ONE, TOO
A MAJOR HEART ATTACK
IT'S MOST LIKELY
.....!

WITH LOTS OF STUDENTS TO CHOOSE FROM...
NATURALLY, I MADE MY DISAPPROVAL KNOWN.
...WHY DOES HEADMASTER MUELLER FAVOR YOU MORE THAN THE OTHERS?
HE...
HE'LL GET WELL, WON'T HE?
DID THE HEADMASTER COLLAPSE?!
thud thud

HEADMASTER MUELLER WAS TALKING TO ME ABOUT YOU JUST BEFORE IT HAPPENED
HE WAS PERFECTLY FINE... AT MASS THIS MORNING.
ABOUT ME?
HE EXPLAINED TO ME THAT AS FAR AS HE'S CONCERNED, HE SEES NO PROBLEM WITH ADOPTING YOU AS HIS SON.


I CALLED THE RED CROSS JUST NOW. A DOCTOR AND NURSE ARE ON THEIR WAY.
...AS LONG AS YOU KEEP QUIET.
TONIGHT I'LL STAY BY HIS BEDSIDE IF YOU WANT TO BE NEAR HIM, YOU CAN STAY IN THE NEXT ROOM.

RING
I SAID NO ONE IS ALLOWED IN HERE! HE NEEDS COMPLETE BED REST!
SLAM
WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
WHEN THE STUDENTS GATHER FOR DINNER TONIGHT, WE MUST INSTRUCT THEM ALL TO KEEP THE NOISE DOWN!
WHAT SHALL WE DO?

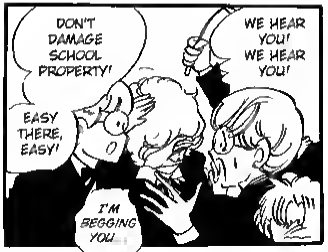
HUH?
WHY IS HERR ARZT HERE?
OSCAR?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA?
WHAT'S HE HERE FOR? DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S SO WORRIED ABOUT?
REMEMBER THE TIME YOU WERE ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL FOR YOUR CONDITION...
...AND THEY COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING WRONG WITH YOUR HEART?
I...
WELL, SURELY THAT MEANS...
HEADMASTER MUELLER WILL GET WELL SOON RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW!
I DON'T KNOW!
DON'T CRY

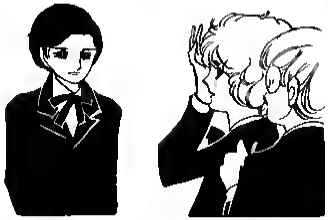
DAY AFTER DAY
I SEE FAINT ANGEL WINGS IN A RAINBOW OF COLORS
ON THE BACK OF EACH STUDENT
JULUS-MOLE!
HE'S ILL?
DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS, JULI? THE HEADMASTER IS ILL!
DID YOU SEE THE RED CROSS AMBULANCE OUTSIDE?

DON'T MAKE SO MUCH NOISE
HE'S ON DINING HALL DUTY HE'S SERVING THE SOUP
WHERE'S JULI?
I DID!
DID YOU SEE THE RED CROSS AMBULANCE OUTSIDE?
JULI!
I HEARD OSCAR KEPT A CONSTANT VIGIL BY THE HEADMASTER'S BEDSIDE
OSCAR NEEDS YOU! YOU'VE GOT TO GO TO HIM!
GRAB
I'LL DO THAT FOR YOU!

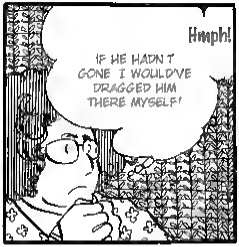
YES, YOU!
ME?
I M THE ONLY JUDAS AMONGST THEM ALL
I M THE ONLY ONE WITHOUT THEM
ONE NEEDS WINGS TO PASS THROUGH THE NARROW GATES OF HEAVEN
DESPITE THAT DID YOU LOVE ME SO MUCH
YOU WERE WILLING TO GIVE UP YOUR LIFE FOR ME THOMAS?

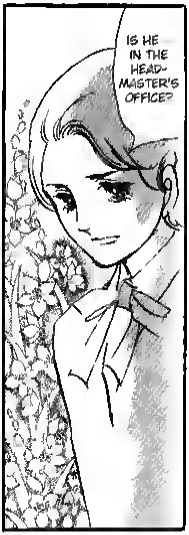
I TRIED TO COMFORT HIM, BUT IT'S NO USE
I CAN'T REACH HIM
DESPITE THAT DID YOU LOVE ME, THOMAS?
DESPITE EVERYTHING THOMAS?
THAT'S WHY YOU'VE GOT TO BE WITH HIM,
BECAUSE OSCAR REALLY LIKES YOU
OSCAR NEEDS YOU MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE RIGHT NOW
WOW!
HE'S LIKE A FATHER TO OSCAR!
I'LL DRAG YOU THERE IF I HAVE TO! IT'S ABOUT THE HEAD-MASTER!
NOW HE'S ILL AND...
WHEN DID YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND?
I....
THE HEAD PREFECT IS SO POPULAR!
ARE YOU LETTING OSCAR HAVE HIM?
DID YOU TWO NEGOTIATE A DEAL?
ARE YOU SERIOUS, ERIC?
ARE YOU GIVING UP YOUR TRUE LOVE TO SOMEONE ELSE?


DON'T DAMAGE SCHOOL PROPERTY!
WE HEAR YOU! WE HEAR YOU!
EASY THERE, EASY!
I'M BEGGING YOU...



clang
HE MIGHT DIE ANY MINUTE!
THE RED CROSS AMBULANCE CAME TO INJECT HIM WITH CAMPHOR!
ERIC!
clang
HIS CONDITION'S OBVIOUSLY HOPELESS! OSCAR'S NOT COPING WELL EITHER!
DON'T DO THAT, ERIC!


Hmph!
IF HE HADN'T GONE I WOULD'VE DRAGGED HIM THERE MYSELF!

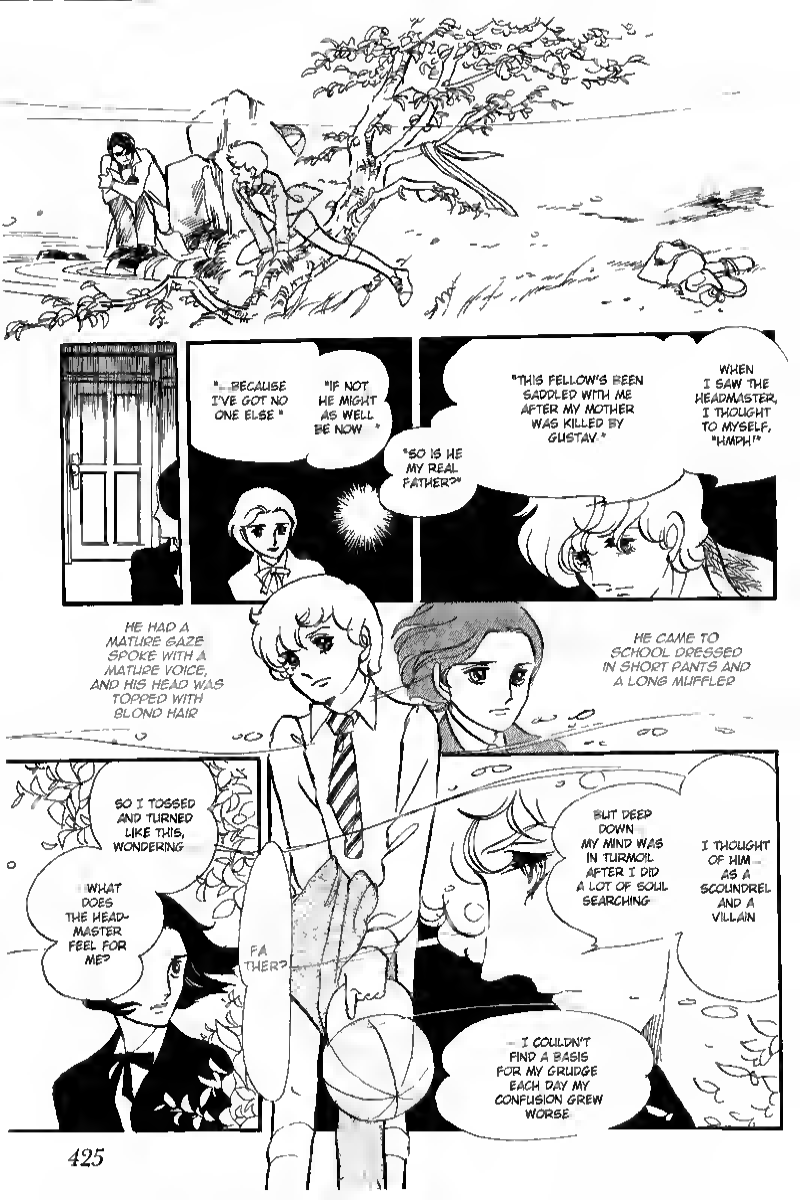

IS HE IN THE HEAD-MASTER'S OFFICE?

BE QUIET! DRINK IT ALL AND DON'T LEAVE A DROP BEHIND!
HEY! DON'T SPLASH THE SOUP!
Grr!

FOR FAR TOO LONG, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PUZZLED BY SOMETHING
WHY DID HE ALLOW JUDAS TO GO?
WHY DID CHRIST ALLOW JUDAS TO GO DESPITE KNOWING OF JUDAS'S BETRAYAL?
BY DOING IT, HE HASTENED HIS OWN CRUCIFIXION
IN THE NEW TESTA-MENT,
WHAT YOU DO DO QUICKLY."
DESPITE THAT, DID CHRIST LOVE JUDAS?
DID JUDAS STILL LOVE CHRIST TOO?
Kachik
—FEELING SORRY FOR MYSELF THE WHOLE TIME
TRAPPED IN MY OWN WORLD
YOU SILENTLY WAITED AND WATCHED ME
YOU KNEW ALL ALONG

HOW IS HEAD-MASTER MUELLER?
WHY DO YOU CARE?
YOU COULD...
.....
AS LONG YOU DON'T MIND ME BEING HERE AND LET'S SAY YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO...
IF I'M THE ONE YOU LIKE...
THEN MAYBE YOU COULD...
HE
THE HEAD-MASTER
...IS MY FATHER.
HE'S MY REAL FATHER

HE LEFT ME BEHIND TO TRAVEL ON HIS OWN TO SOUTH AMERICA SOMEHOW I HAD A FEELING GUSTAV WASN'T MY REAL FATHER EVER SINCE I WAS A YOUNG BOY.
I REALIZED IT WHEN I WAS FIRST BROUGHT HERE BY MY ORIGINAL FATHER, GUSTAV.
MY FATHER MURDERED MY MOTHER, THEN WENT IN HIDING WITH ME FOR ONE YEAR
BUT GUSTAV ACTED STRANGE WITH ME AND HE WOULD IGNORE MY MOTHER AND AVOID SHOWING HER ANY AFFECTION
I LOVED MY MOTHER AND GUSTAV AND MY MOTHER DOTED ON ME.
I GUESS YOU'VE GOT THE BAD LUCK TO BE IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME
AREN'T YOU GOING TO HOLD UP YOUR END OF THE CONVERSATION?
I'M IN AN UNUSUALLY CHATTY MOOD
OSCAR ?
HE WAS VERY NICE TO ME THE WHOLE TIME


WHEN I SAW THE HEADMASTER, I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, "HMPH!"
"THIS FELLOW'S BEEN SADDLED WITH ME AFTER MY MOTHER WAS KILLED BY GUSTAV."
"SO IS HE MY REAL FATHER?"
"IF NOT HE MIGHT AS WELL BE NOW."
"—BECAUSE I'VE GOT NO ONE ELSE."
HE CAME TO SCHOOL DRESSED IN SHORT PANTS AND A LONG MUFFLER
HE HAD A MATURE GAZE SPOKE WITH A MATURE VOICE, AND HIS HEAD WAS TOPPED WITH BLOND HAIR
I THOUGHT OF HIM — AS A SCOUNDREL AND A VILLAIN
BUT DEEP DOWN MY MIND WAS IN TURMOIL AFTER I DID A LOT OF SOUL SEARCHING
— I COULDN'T FIND A BASIS FOR MY GRUDGE EACH DAY MY CONFUSION GREW WORSE
FA THER?
WHAT DOES THE HEAD-MASTER FEEL FOR ME?
SO I TOSSED AND TURNED LIKE THIS, WONDERING

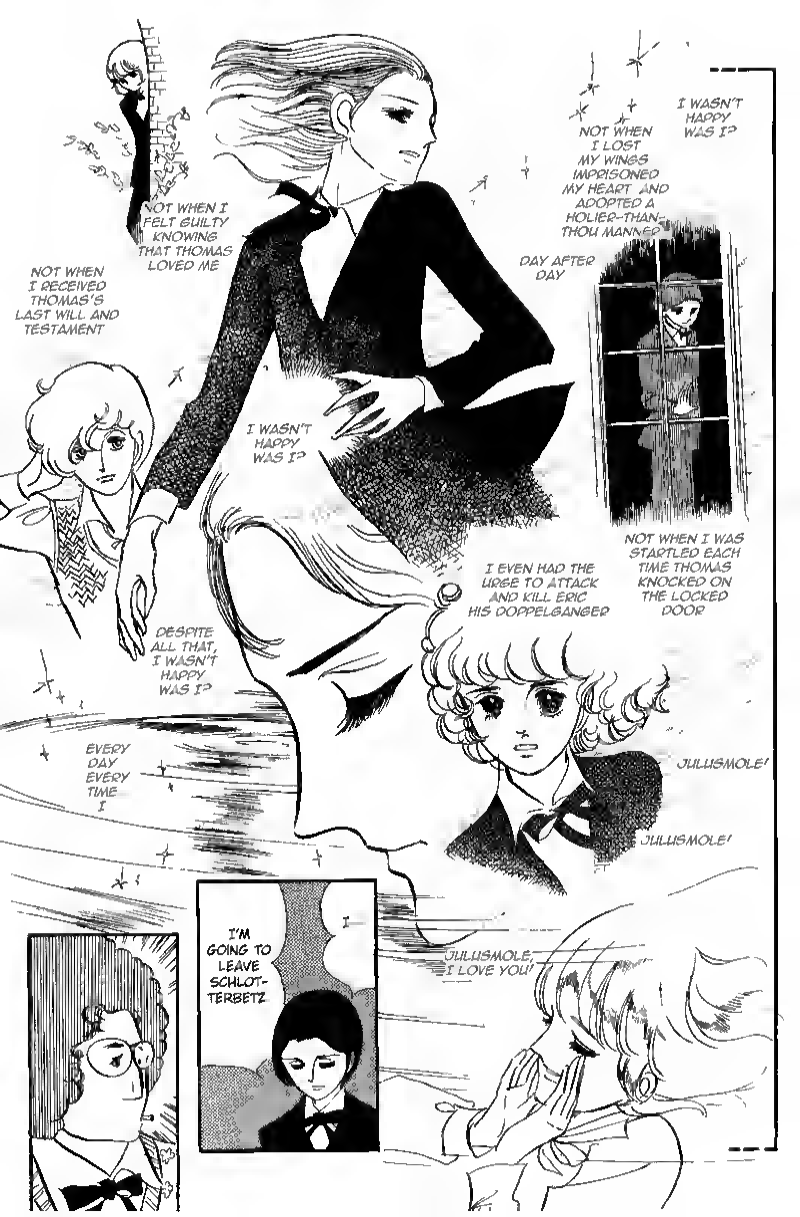
I LOVE YOU!
I'LL SHOUT IT IN HIS EAR AS LOUD AS I CAN
BEFORE HE LOSES ALL CONSCIOUSNESS THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO SAY TO HIM NO MATTER WHAT
WHAT IF—
—HE DOESN'T MAKE IT?
HIS BLOOD PRESSURE HAS DROPPED AGAIN
BECAUSE I WAS NEITHER A GOOD PUPIL NOR A GOOD SON TO HIM.
BUT YOU NEVER GAVE THE SLIGHTEST HINT—
SO YOU LOVE THE HEAD-MASTER?
SO WAS THAT WHAT YOU MEANT— WHEN YOU TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR HAND OF CARDS A WHILE AGO?

THAT'S RIGHT. THAT WAS MY TRUMP CARD. MY JOKER. BUT MY ONLY WISH NOW...
YOU AND HIM...
...IS FOR HIM TO REGAIN HIS SENSES
ARE THE TWO PEOPLE I LOVE VERY MUCH
CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?
IT ALL MADE SENSE
UH HUH, JUL!
IT WAS ALL SO EASY
FULL CIRCLE
I WAS JUST WAITING FOR YOU TO ASK...
THE WHEEL OF TIME IS GRADUALLY TURNING

kachik
HE'S FINE NOW
DUNO
REALLY, HERR ARZT?
HE SHOULD BE UP AND ABOUT IN A MONTH'S TIME HE STILL NEEDS TO BE ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL
BUT YOU CAN GO IN AND SEE HIM NOW
.....

BLING
REALLY?! WHERE'S OSCAR?
THE HEADMASTER'S MUCH BETTER
JULI!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
HE'S IN THE HEAD-MASTER'S OFFICE
YES, I WILL
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME OVER? WE'RE SERVING TEA.
IT DIDN'T SEEM RIGHT FOR HIM TO GO BACK TO AN EMPTY ROOM, SO I TOOK HIM IN. WE'VE BEEN UP ALL NIGHT

I'M ON THE SECOND FLOOR WING OF JAKOB HALL, JOINING THEM FOR TEA.
COME IN!
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO INVITE YOU FOR A WHILE NOW!
HI JULI!
A CUP OF TEA FOR ME!
ME TOO! I FEEL SO SLEEPY!
THEY WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE HEAD-MASTER TOO
ALTHOUGH THEY WERE ALSO UP ALL NIGHT TELLING ERIC SCI-FI STORIES
THE ROOM IS FILLED WITH LIGHT
THE WINGS I SAW ARE NO MORE. THEY'VE VANISHED IN THE LIGHT
THANK GOODNESS THE HEADMASTER IS ON THE MEND!
YES, I AGREE
WHY ARE YOU SMILING?
YOU SEEM QUITE HAPPY ABOUT SOMETHING
YES, BACCHUS, BECAUSE I NOW UNDER-STAND—
NO MATTER WHO WE ARE, GOD LOVES US ALL
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND AT LAST.
OH?
AH I SEE!
SINCE WE'RE ALL CREATED BY GOD, WE'LL ALWAYS BE DEAR TO HIM.
DESPITE OUR MANY FLAWS
YET FOR SO LONG
FOR SO LONG


I WASN'T HAPPY WAS I?
NOT WHEN I LOST MY WINGS IMPRISONED MY HEART AND ADOPTED A HOLIER-THAN-THOU MANNER
DAY AFTER DAY
NOT WHEN I FELT GUILTY KNOWING THAT THOMAS LOVED ME
NOT WHEN I RECEIVED THOMAS'S LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
I WASN'T HAPPY WAS I?
NOT WHEN I WAS STARTLED EACH TIME THOMAS KNOCKED ON THE LOCKED DOOR
I EVEN HAD THE URGE TO ATTACK AND KILL ERIC HIS DOPPELGANGER
DESPITE ALL THAT, I WASN'T HAPPY WAS I?
JULIUSMOLE!
JULIUSMOLE!
EVERY DAY EVERY TIME I
I
I'M GOING TO LEAVE SCHLOT-TERBETZ
JULIUSMOLE, I LOVE YOU!

THESE MEADOW FLOWERS FROM OSCAR ARE A SURPRISE. HE SAID HE WAS SO RELIEVED TO KNOW YOU WERE ON THE MEND THAT HE DASHED OUTSIDE TO PICK THEM FOR YOU.
AT ONE TIME, I WASN'T SURE WHETHER YOU WOULD PULL THROUGH.
GUSTAV'S SON IS A FINE BOY.
BECAUSE I WAS AS WORRIED FOR HIM AS I WAS FOR YOU AFTER YOUR COLLAPSE.
BEFORE I SPOKE WITHOUT THINKING I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO YOU ADOPTING HIM,
A CATHOLIC SEMINARY IN BONN, SO I HEAR HE'S GOING TO BECOME A PRIEST.
BY THE WAY, JULUSMOLE BAYHAN WILL BE TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL.
YOU'RE KIDDING!
WHEN?
WHAT WAS THAT?!
DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS? JULI'S LEAVING SCHOOL!
I SEE
WHY WOULD HE DO SUCH A THING?
ERIC!

NO, IT'S YOU!
NO, YOU'RE WRONG!
Wah!
YOU'RE WRONG!
LET'S GO ASK JULI THEN!
BUT I HEARD IT FROM HERR HOMANN!
IT CAN'T BE TRUE! HERBERT'S PLAYING A TRICK ON US!
YOU'RE MAKING ME UPSET! YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE FUN OF ME IN FRONT OF EVERYONE!
bump
OSCAR!
DOES SOMEONE WANT TO ASK SOMETHING?
A SEMINARY IN BONN!
IS IT TRUE, OSCAR?
JULI'S IN THE CHAPEL
YES, HE'S GOING TO A SEMINARY IN BONN
THAT'S JUST LIKE JULI!
SO HE'S GOING TO BE A PRIEST?

THOMAS HAS HIM NOW
THERE'S NO USE RUNNING AFTER HIM ERIC
JULIUSMOLE HAS MADE HIS MOVE
THAT'S WHY HE'S NOT WAITING AROUND HERE ANYMORE
THE BEGINNING OF THE END
SO THIS IS OUR FAREWELL.
Slam
BONN! BONN! BONN! BONN!
BONN
WHERE IS THIS PLACE?
I'M GOING TO ENROLL IN THE SEMINARY TOO!
ERIC!
ERIC!
DON'T RUN AWAY, FATHER!
I'M SORRY, BUT ENTERING A SEMINARY IS FOR SOMEONE WITH THE RIGHT CHARACTER! YOU'RE NOT SUITED TO BE A PRIEST, ERIC!

I LEAVE TOMORROW.
ARE YOU SERIOUS? IS THIS A JOKE? YOU'RE KIDDING, AREN'T YOU?
let go
HOW COULD YOU BE SO MEAN?! WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU THINKING?! YOU DIDN'T EVEN SAY A WORD!
THOSE WERE YOUR WORDS, RIGHT?
YOU ONCE SAID YOU'D GIVE ME YOUR WINGS
ERIC!
THEN GO! GO ON! LEAVE US NOW!
ABANDON ME AND OSCAR AND YOUR LOYAL DEFENDERS! LEAVE US BEHIND!

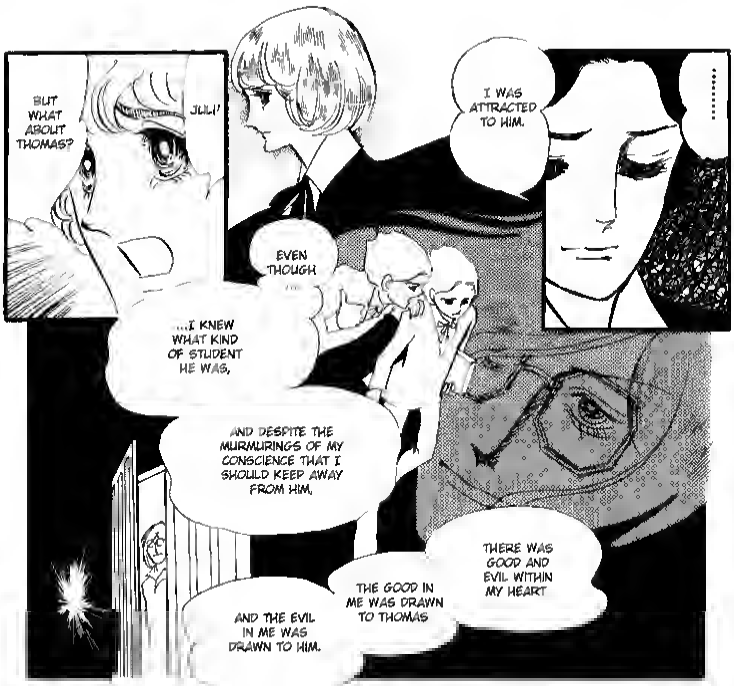
I'LL PASS IT ON.
UH HUH.
COULD YOU TELL HIM THAT WE WISH HIM ALL THE BEST?
I'M HERE IN HIS PLACE JULI'S BUSY TIDYING UP HIS ROOM
WHY ARE YOU HERE OSCAR? WHERE'S JULI?
LIGHTS OUT!
LIGHTS OUT!
LIGHTS OUT. SAME AS USUAL!
YES
SO HE'S REALLY LEAVING?
I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID! IF YOU LEAVE, I WON'T GIVE YOU A HAIR ON MY HEAD, LET ALONE MY WINGS! YOU'LL GET NOTHING!
I HAVE A GREAT DEAL I WANT TO EXPLAIN TO YOU.
NOTHING AT ALL!
NOTH-ING!

AND ALL THE FOND MEMORIES OF MY PAST COME FLOODING BACK
I LOOK AT YOU...
THE MORNING MY LITTLE SISTER WAS BORN
THE POWDERED SNOW AT CHRISTMAS
I'M SURE YOU NEVER TRULY HATED OR HELD A DEEP-SEATED GRUDGE AGAINST ANYONE
THAT'S WHY EVERYONE'S HEART GOES OUT TO YOU WHEN THEY SEE YOU, AMOUR
THE TEARS OF COMPASSION FROM A STRANGER
THE FIRST GIRL I FELL IN LOVE WITH,
IF YOU GO NOW, I'LL HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST YOU FOREVER!
LONG BEFORE THE RUMORS BEGAN,
AND HE LIKED ME TOO
I COULD SEE IT IN THE WAY HE WATCHED ME
THAT'S THE KIND OF BOY THOMAS WERNER WAS
I DID LIKE THOMAS...

I WAS CONTENT TO WATCH AND ADMIRE HIM FROM AFAR TOO
HE WAS A QUIET BOY
HE HAD MANY ADMIRERS WHO ALL ADORED HIM
JULI!
AND BETRAY MYSELF...
I CHOSE TO LIE TO HIM...
BUT INSTEAD OF ADMITTING THE TRUTH...
WE RAN INTO HIM AT GIESSEN STATION
DO YOU RECALL SEIFRIET GAST?
GIESSEN? OH YES! THE MAN WITH OCTAGONAL GLASSES!
IS HE SEIFRIET?
WHAT ABOUT HIM?

YES SEIFRIET WAS A FOURTH YEAR SENIOR AT THE TIME...
...AND HE WAS AN AVID READER OF BOOKS
.....
LAST SPRING...?
LAST SPRING, FOUR STUDENTS WERE EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL HE WAS ONE OF THEM.
IN PUBLIC HE BEHAVED LIKE A DELINQUENT, AND TRIED TO SET THINGS ON FIRE FOR FUN
I COULD TELL BY YOUR LOVELY BLACK HAIR.
LET ME GUESS... YOUR FATHER HAS GREEK ANCESTRY, RIGHT?
YES, HE DID.
IT'S NO PROBLEM. ACTUALLY, IT'S A NEW BOOK, AND I WAS THINKING ABOUT READING IT MYSELF.
SO DID YOU FINISH YOUR ESSAY?
FORGIVE ME, LIBRARY MONITOR! IT'S JUST A BIT LATE!
HE WAS CONSTANTLY IN AND OUT OF THE LIBRARY
OH! THIS BOOK IS OVERDUE. I HAD AN ESSAY TO WRITE AND I WAS USING IT AS A REFERENCE. IT'S CALLED "RENAISSANCE AND HUMANISM."

I WASN'T KEEN TO GO HOME BECAUSE MY SISTER WAS IN HOSPITAL, AND I KNEW I'D HAVE TO SPEND MOST OF THE TIME WITH MY GRANDMOTHER
BEFORE LONG IT WAS TIME FOR THE EASTER BREAK I STAYED BEHIND AT SCHOOL.
OH!
I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS WHEN YOU FINISH READING IT. HOW ABOUT WE DISCUSS IT SOME TIME?
THANKS FOR GRANTING ME A LOAN EXTENSION FOR "RENAISSANCE AND HUMANISM"! I MANAGED TO FINISH MY ESSAY!
HE AND HIS FRIENDS WERE SERVING DETENTION SENTENCES SO THEY ALSO STAYED BEHIND AT SCHOOL
HEY!
HELLO JUL!
COME AND SEE US WE'LL BE EXPECTING YOU
WE'RE IN THE ROOM LOCATED IN THE SECOND FLOOR WING OF JAKOB HALL
WHY DID YOU?
.....
DID YOU GO?
THE TEA PARTY ROOM?


BUT WHAT ABOUT THOMAS?
JULI!
I WAS ATTRACTED TO HIM.
.....
EVEN THOUGH
...I KNEW WHAT KIND OF STUDENT HE WAS,
AND DESPITE THE MURMURINGS OF MY CONSCIENCE THAT I SHOULD KEEP AWAY FROM HIM,
THERE WAS GOOD AND EVIL WITHIN MY HEART
THE GOOD IN ME WAS DRAWN TO THOMAS
AND THE EVIL IN ME WAS DRAWN TO HIM.

I HAD EFFECTIVELY CAST THEM ASIDE MYSELF...
FROM THE MOMENT I ACCEPTED SEIFRIET'S INVITATION,
ALTHOUGH I TOLD YOU MY WINGS WERE TORN FROM ME

THERE WAS A HINT OF SAVAGERY ABOUT HIM.
YOU ALREADY HAVE SOME IDEA OF WHAT I ENDURED ONCE I WENT IN THERE.
YOUR SCARS...
THE SCARS ON YOUR BACK... DID HE SCRATCH YOU?
THEY AREN'T SCRATCH MARKS.
THEY WERE MADE WITH...
THE CANE FROM A TEACHER'S DESK.

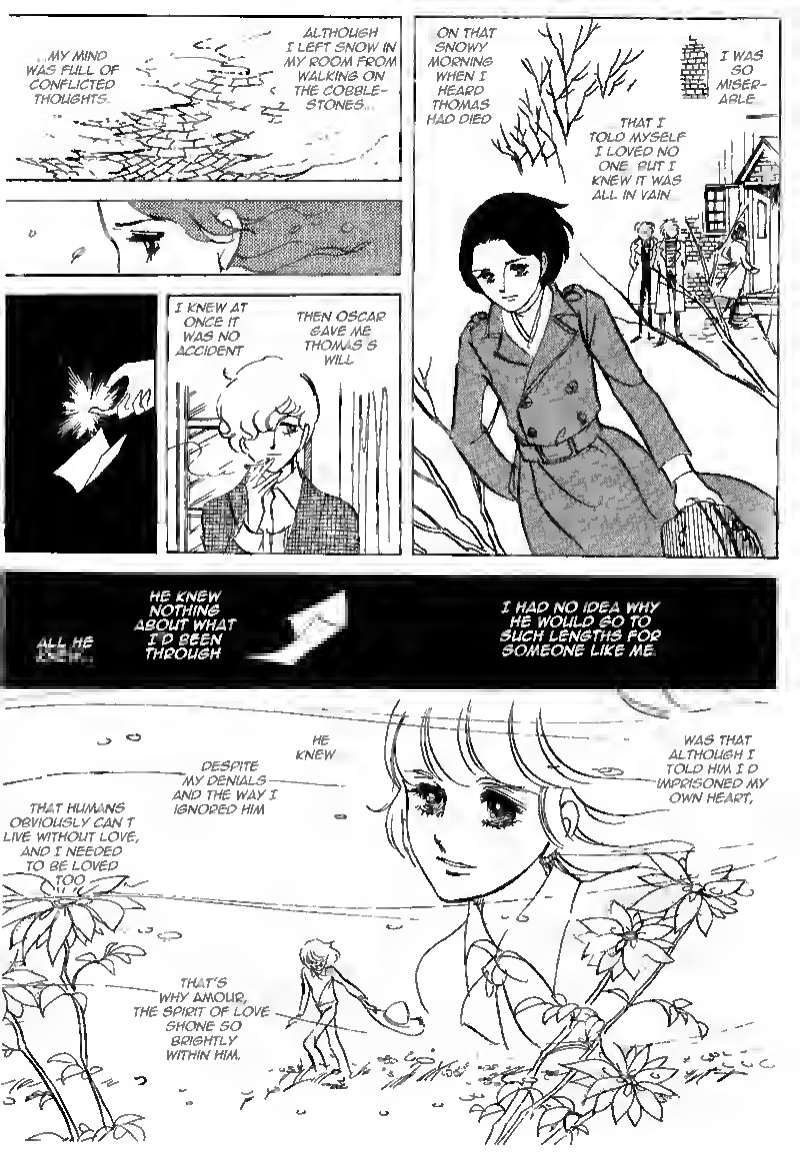
I HAD NO SAY IN IT AT ALL
THEY USED YOU?
HE AND HIS FRIENDS USED ME AS THEY PLEASED.
BUT WHY? WHAT HAPPENED WHEN SEIFRIET INVITED YOU UP THERE?
HEY, COME IN!

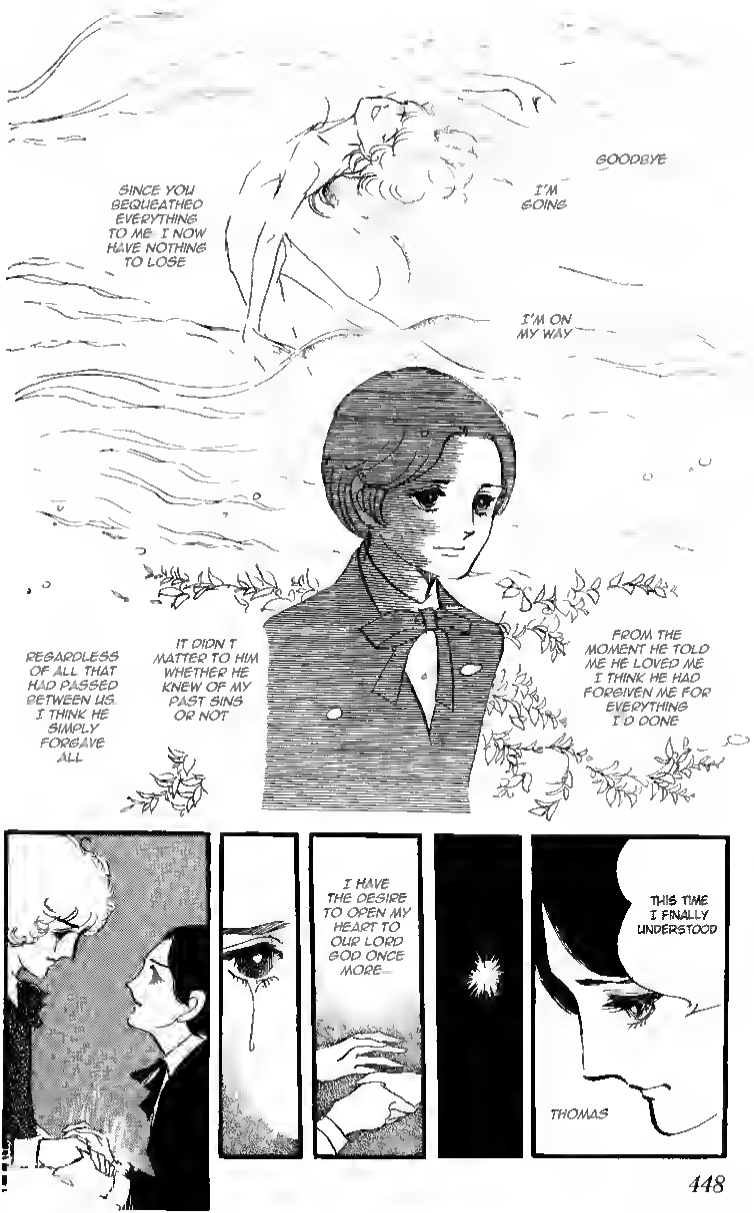
KNOCK
THAT NIGHT...
...HE EXPLAINED HIS BELIEFS WHICH INCLUDED SATANISM. HE USED ME FOR HIS AMUSEMENT. HE USED ME AND LAUGHED...
WHAT USE IS RELIGION? WHEN DISASTER STRIKES, WE SHALL BE CRUSHED AND EXTINGUISHED.
IT'S EASIER TO LIVE AS AN OPPORTUNIST! EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF!
ALL HUMANS ARE FALLEN ANGELS, AND THEREFORE DEMONIC BY NATURE
GOD? WHAT CAN GOD DO?
HE USED ME TO DEMONSTRATE.

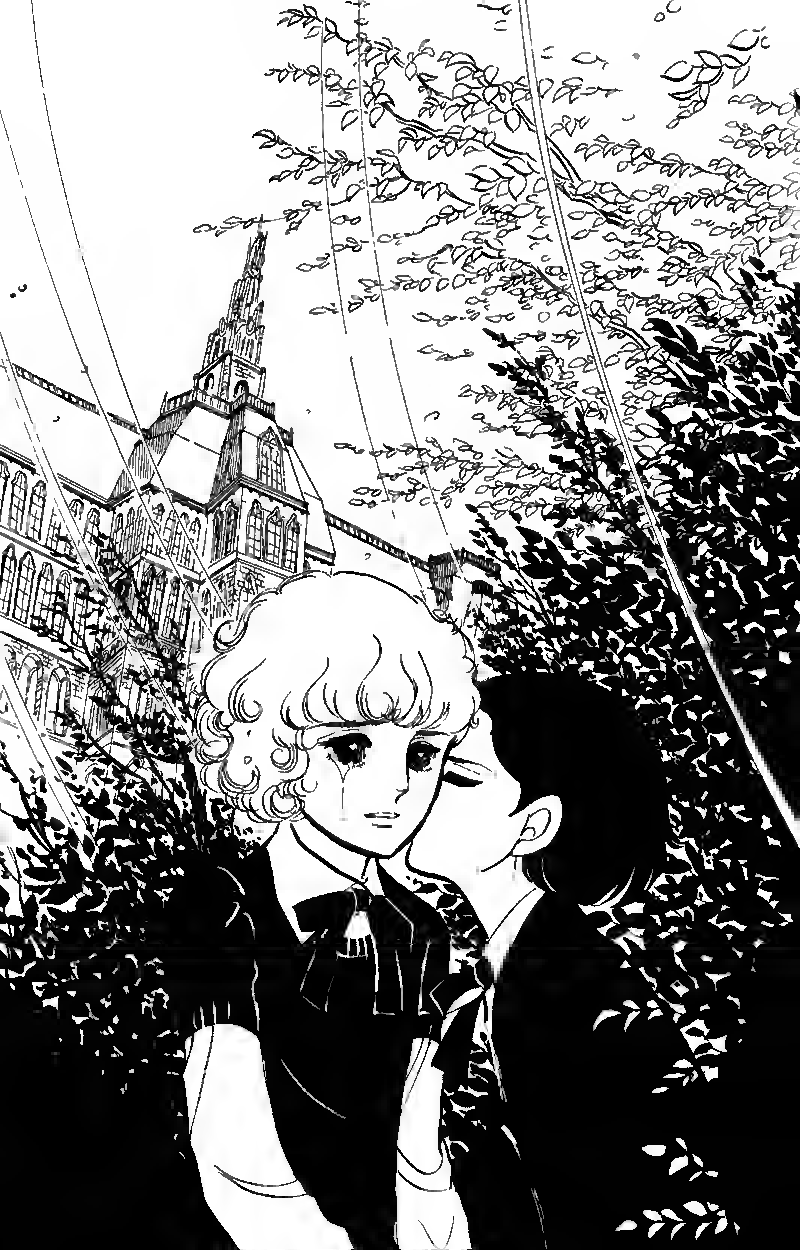
SO I CAN'T WIN BY FORCE, AFTER ALL.
YOU'RE TURNING A BLIND EYE TO ME! SO YOU STILL WON'T RENOUNCE YOUR BELIEFS IN FAVOR OF MINE? HOW WONDERFULLY DEVOUT YOU ARE, JULIUSMOLE!
HOW ABOUT A GLASS OF WATER?
TELL ME I'M GREATER THAN GOD! TELL ME YOU WORSHIP ME! TELL ME YOU LOVE ME!
IN THAT CASE, IT'S THE END FOR YOU... COME ON, TRY SAYING IT FOR ME. I'LL MAKE YOU SAY IT IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO.
THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY.
JA! YES!
DO YOU LOVE ME?

SO I DID IT...
I KNELT BEFORE HIM AND SAID WHAT HE WANTED ME TO SAY
INSTEAD OF WORSHIPPING GOD I WORSHIPPED HIM BY PRESSING MY LIPS AGAINST HIS FEET
THEN I HAD TO SAY TO HIM OVER AND OVER, "FORGIVE ME! FORGIVE ME FOR ALL I'VE DONE!"
NO MORE!
NO MORE! NO MORE! THAT'S ENOUGH!

I SAID THAT'S ENOUGH! I'VE HEARD ENOUGH! YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME ANY MORE!
THEN I SEALED A CONTRACT WITH HIM IN BLOOD.
SORRY... TALKING ABOUT IT MUST BE PAINFUL FOR YOU TOO, RIGHT?
WHY, JUL!?
I DISMISSED THOMAS'S DECLARATION AS A PRANK,
BUT I SENSED HE WAS GENUINE.
AREN'T YOU HAPPY? DOESN'T LOVING SOMEONE MAKE YOU HAPPY?
I LIKE YOU! I THINK YOU'RE WONDERFUL! WHY DO YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT?
WHY?
SO YOU LOVE NO ONE?
I... I EVEN HAD A DREAM... IN WHICH I SET THOMAS ON FIRE.
I WAS UNWORTHY OF HIS LOVE.
I COULDN'T ANSWER HIM.


MY MIND WAS FULL OF CONFLICTED THOUGHTS...
ALTHOUGH I LEFT SNOW IN MY ROOM FROM WALKING ON THE COBBLE-STONES...
I KNEW AT ONCE IT WAS NO ACCIDENT
THEN OSCAR GAVE ME THOMAS'S WILL
ON THAT SNOWY MORNING WHEN I HEARD THOMAS HAD DIED
I WAS SO MISER-ABLE
THAT I TOLD MYSELF I LOVED NO ONE. BUT I KNEW IT WAS ALL IN VAIN.
ALL HE KNEW...
HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT WHAT I'D BEEN THROUGH
I HAD NO IDEA WHY HE WOULD GO TO SUCH LENGTHS FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME.
HE KNEW
DESPITE MY DENIALS AND THE WAY I IGNORED HIM
WAS THAT ALTHOUGH I TOLD HIM I'D IMPRISONED MY OWN HEART,
THAT HUMANS OBVIOUSLY CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT LOVE, AND I NEEDED TO BE LOVED TOO...
THAT'S WHY AMOUR, THE SPIRIT OF LOVE SHONE SO BRIGHTLY WITHIN HIM.


SINCE YOU BEQUEATHED EVERYTHING TO ME I NOW HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE
GOODBYE
I'M GOING
I'M ON MY WAY
REGARDLESS OF ALL THAT HAD PASSED BETWEEN US I THINK HE SIMPLY FORGAVE ALL
IT DIDN T MATTER TO HIM WHETHER HE KNEW OF MY PAST SINS OR NOT
FROM THE MOMENT HE TOLD ME HE LOVED ME I THINK HE HAD FORGIVEN ME FOR EVERYTHING I'D DONE
I HAVE THE DESIRE TO OPEN MY HEART TO OUR LORD GOD ONCE MORE...
THIS TIME I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD
THOMAS



DON'T BE STUPID!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT THERE YOU CAN ALWAYS COME BACK!
BEST OF LUCK!
BE SURE TO WRITE!
YOU'RE LEAVING SO SOON WE CAN'T EVEN THROW A FAREWELL PARTY FOR YOU!
WELL, WELL! EVEN ON HIS LAST DAY HE'S STILL OUR HEAD PREFECT!
dong
dong
HEAR THAT? CLASS IS ABOUT TO START!
UH HUH! SEE YOU LATER!
WHAT IS IT?
TAKE THIS
IT'S FOR JULI... HE CAN OPEN IT ON THE TRAIN
ERIC?
ME! I DID HOLD THE POST LAST YEAR!
SO WHO WILL BE THE NEXT DORMITORY SUPERVISOR?
JULLIS-MOLE IS ON HIS WAY
I'LL WALK WITH YOU TO THE STATION, JULI!
UH HUH.
HE'S LEAVING US.
HE'S REALLY LEAVING US

IT'S FOR YOU, JULI, FROM LUDWIG
WHAT'S THAT?
Renaissance and Humanism
THAT CHEEKY THIEF! THIS BOOK IS FROM THE LIBRARY!
DON'T! HE'S MEANT TO OPEN IT ON THE TRAIN!
LET ME SEE!
UH UH NOT AT ALL BUT IT'S A BOOK THOMAS USED TO READ
WHY? IS IT AN INTERESTING BOOK?
TAKE IT AS A KEEPSAKE
TAKE IT WITH YOU

WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN WHEN WE GRADUATE FROM SCHOOL.
TAKE CARE!
YOU TOO!
IT'S ALMOST TIME
WELL THEN
UH HUH
DO YOU HAVE ALL YOUR BAGS?
THE TRAIN IS HERE
CLACK
UH HUH
rattle
NO
YOU'RE VERY QUIET. AREN'T YOU GOING TO SAY ANYTHING TO HIM, ERIC?
CLENCH!

JULI...
JULI!!
toot

I'M GOING TO STAY WITH SZYD IN BODEN
REALLY? WHAT WILL YOU DO?
I'M GOING TO LEAVE SCHOOL TOO
BESIDES, WHAT ABOUT THE FRIENDS YOU'VE MADE HERE...
YOU FOOL! IT'S NEARLY TIME FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS!
YOU WON'T ACHIEVE ANYTHING IF YOU DON'T STUDY HARD...
...LIKE BACCHUS AND HERBERT AND LIEB AND ME?
...LE BEBE...
Flip
Flick Flick

小学館文庫 萩尾望都 作品

11人いる!	全1巻
スター・レッド	全1巻
トーマの心臓	全1巻
訪問者	全1巻
11月のギムナジウム	全1巻
ゴールデンライラック	全1巻
半神	全1巻
とってもしあわせモトちゃん	全1巻
恐るべき子どもたち	全1巻
ウは宇宙船のウ	全1巻
ポーの一族	全3巻
Marginal マージナル	全3巻
フラワー・フェスティバル	全1巻
感謝知らずの男	全1巻
ローマへの道	全1巻
完全犯罪 フェアリー	全1巻
イグアナの娘	全1巻
海のアリア	全2巻
あぶない丘の家	全1巻
A－A′	全1巻
残酷な神が支配する	全10巻

小学館文庫

トーマの心臓

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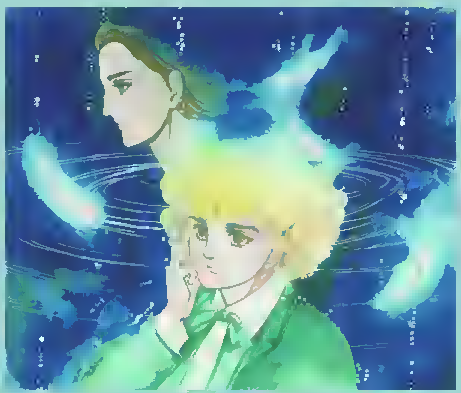
A thousand ideas, a thousand schemes, arose within my soul; till at length one last, fixed, final thought took possession of my heart. It was to die. I lay down to rest, and in the morning, in the quiet hour of awakening, the same determination was upon me. To die! It is not despair, it is conviction that I have filled up the measure of my sufferings, that I have reached my appointed term, and must sacrifice myself for thee.

And what do they mean by saying Albert is your husband? He may be so for this world, and in this world it is a sin to love you; to wish to tear you from his embrace. Yes, it is a crime, and I suffer the punishment, but I have enjoyed the full delight of my sin. I have inhaled a balm that has revived my soul. From this hour you are mine, yes, Charlotte, you are mine! I go before you. I go to my Father and to your Father. I will pour out my sorrows before him, and he will give me comfort till you arrive. Then will I fly to meet you, I will claim you, and remain your eternal embrace, in the presence of the Almighty.

The Sorrows of Young Werther
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Oh, love isn't there to make us happy. I believe it exists to show us how much we can endure.
Peter Camenzind
Hermann Hesse

Love is the most important thing in the world. It may be important to great thinkers to examine the world, to explain and despise it. But I think it is only important to love the world, not to despise it, not for us to hate each other, but to be able to regard the world and ourselves and all beings with love, admiration and respect.
Siddhartha
Hermann Hesse



For one human being to love another; that is perhaps the most difficult of all our tasks, the ultimate, the last test and proof, the work for which all other work is but preparation.
Letters to a Young Poet
Rainer Maria Rilke

Ah, it seemed to me impossible to leave the world until I had brought forth all that I felt was within me.
Heiligenstadt Testament
Ludwig van Beethoven